

Preparing Pets For A Hurricane



PRESS RELEASE—Wake Forest, NC, May 24, 2013: Hurricane season is now upon us—running from June 1 through November 30. It is expected to be a busy hurricane season this year. Experts predict 18 named storms and nine hurricanes, four of which may be major hurricanes.

It is not realistic to think certain areas cannot be affected by a hurricane. The entire Atlantic and Gulf coasts are considered high-risk areas. Inland areas are affected by the high winds, floods and tornadoes. The best protection from a hurricane is to be prepared and have a plan. These plans should include the entire family—that means our pets. To help pet owners prepare for hurricane season, TripsWithPets.com provides an online *Disaster Preparedness and Resource Guide for Pets*.

Pets are abandoned during hurricanes and natural disasters every year. Pet owners' lack of planning is a big part of the problem. Many find themselves scrambling to find a safe harbor for their pet in the event of evacuation from their homes.

The most important part of a disaster plan is to prepare for an evacuation. Red Cross disaster shelters cannot accept pets because of states' health and safety regulations and other considerations. Further, most kennels, veterinarians, and animal shelters are usually filled beyond capacity. TripsWithPets.com's *Disaster Preparedness and Resource Guide for Pets* offers a pet evacuation plan checklist, complete with resources on finding a safe place for pets to stay, what to do if pets are home alone when disaster strikes, as well as recommended items to include in a Pet Evacuation & Disaster Kit.

In addition, the TripsWithPets.com's *Disaster Preparedness and Resource Guide for Pets* includes links to the National Hurricane Center, Weather Channel, American Red Cross, and FEMA—just to name a few. The guide also offers site visitors access to helpful directories, such as over 20,000 pet friendly accommodations across the U.S. and Canada, airlines, pet hospitals and more.

"We never know when a disaster will strike. That's why we all need to take the time NOW to prepare a disaster plan for our pets," comments Kim Salerno, President, Trips with Pets, Inc. "The best thing you can do to ensure the safety and well being of your pets is to be prepared."

To keep pets safe, create a disaster plan now.

How to Control a Barking Dog

Barking can be, quite honestly, a hard behavior to modify because it's a self-rewarding activity for the dog. When a dog barks, he almost always makes something happen. When he barks at the mailman, for example, the mailman leaves. (The dog doesn't know that dropping off the mail and walking away is the mailman's job—he thinks his barking has scared the 'intruder' off.)

When the doorbell rings, he barks to let you know that something is out there, and, sure enough, you come to see. If he barks for his dinner, you usually bring it to him. Yelling, scolding or throwing things are seldom effective as corrections because he's still making something happen with his barking even if that something isn't very nice. A better way to hush your noisy dog is to teach him to start—and stop—barking on command.

First, train your dog to "Speak!" for a dog cookie. Praise him when he barks. After a few woofs, tell him, "Alright, Enough!" in a firm, no nonsense voice. Immediately pop the cookie into his mouth. It's impossible for him to bark when his mouth is stuffed with cookie so he has no choice except to obey your command to stop barking. Now tell him what a good dog he is for being quiet.

With a barking dog, you can use all his barking episodes as training opportunities. When the doorbell rings, praise him for barking to alert you, then tell him "Enough!" and reward with a treat when he stops. He's going to learn that you want a few barks and then silence. Make sure you praise him for barking when he's supposed to and then stopping ("Enough!") on command.

When you know that he fully understands the meaning of the word "Enough," you can start correcting him when he ignores it. If he doesn't obey your command to stop barking, give him a sharp tug on his collar and scold, "NO! Enough!" Before long, you'll be able to use "Enough" to stop him before he starts to bark.

This training is going to take a few weeks to sink in. Be persistent and don't give up. Some breeds (like Shelties) are naturally noisy and will take more work to train than others. Even when your dog understands what's expected of him, he may still bark more often than you'd like him to. Now, though, you have a way of getting his attention and letting him know what you want. Even if you have to say "Enough!" each time he barks when he's not supposed to, you'll be doing much better than when you didn't have a way to communicate with him at all.

WARNING—Taking your dog to a backyard barbeque or party? Remember that the food and drink offered to guests may be poisonous to pets. Keep alcoholic beverages away from all pets, as they can cause intoxication, depression and comas," says Dr. Steven Hansen, ASPCA Senior Vice President of Animal Health Services. "Similarly, remember that the snacks enjoyed by your human friends should not be a treat for your pet; any change in diet, even for one meal, may give your dog or cat severe digestive ailments. Especially avoid raisins, grapes, onions, chocolate and products with the sweetener xylitol."

TIPS FOR SAFE TRAVELLING WITH YOUR PET



Before you start planning trips to the beach and summer getaways, keep in mind that it's important to plan ahead for pet travel and always keep the best interests of your furry, four-legged friend in mind. Traveling with your pet can be a wonderful and bonding experience or a not so pleasant one. It's all a matter of proper planning and preparation.

Here are the top tips to ensure your getaway with your pet is a safe one—

No Heads Out the Window: Although many pets find that sticking their head out the window is the best part of the road trip, it's not safe. Your pet can easily be injured by flying debris. This should go without saying, but NEVER travel with a pet in the back of a pickup truck. Some states have laws restricting such transport and it is always dangerous.

Frequent Pit Stops: Always provide frequent bathroom and exercise breaks. Most travel service areas have designated areas for walking your pet. Be sure to stay in this area particularly when your pet needs a potty break, and of course, bring along a bag to pick up after your pet. When outside your vehicle, make sure that your pet is always on a leash and wearing a collar with a permanent and temporary travel identification tag.

Proper Hydration: During your pit stops be sure to provide your pet with some fresh water to wet their whistle. Occasionally traveling can upset your pet's stomach. Take along ice cubes, which are easier on your pet than large amounts of water.

Watch the Food Intake: It is recommended that you keep feeding to a minimum during travel. Be sure to feed them their regular pet food and resist the temptation to give them some of your fast food burger or fries (that never has a good ending!).

Don't Leave Them Alone: Never leave your pet unattended in a parked vehicle. On warm days, the temperature in your vehicle can rise to 120 degrees in minutes, even with the windows slightly open. In addition, an animal left alone in a vehicle is an open invitation to pet thieves.

Practice Restraint: Be sure that your pet is safely restrained in your vehicle. Utilizing a pet safety harness, travel kennel, vehicle pet barrier, or pet car seat are the best ways to keep your pet safe. They not only protect your pet from injury, but they help by keeping them from distracting you as you drive. A safety harness functions like a seatbelt. While most pets will not have a problem adjusting to it, you may want to let them wear the harness by itself a few times before using it in the vehicle. If your pet prefers a travel kennel, be sure it is well ventilated and stabilized. Many pet owners prefer vehicle barriers, particularly for larger pets. Vehicle barriers are best suited for SUVs. Smaller pets are best suited for pet car seats. The car seat is secured in the back seat using a seat belt and your pet is secured in the car seat with a safety harness. In addition to its safety features, a pet car seat will prop up your

("Tips For Safe Travelling With Your Pet" cont.)

smaller pet, allowing them to better look out the window. No matter what method you choose, back seat travel is always safer for your pet.

Safe and Comfortable:

Whatever method you choose to properly restrain your pet in your vehicle, be sure to make their comfort a priority. Just as it's important for your "seat" to be comfortable for your long road trip, your pet's seat should be comfortable too. Typically their favorite blanket or travel bed will do the trick. There are also some safe and very cozy pet car seats available that your pet may find quite comfy. Careful preparation is the key to ensuring that you and your pet have a happy and safe trip.

— About TripsWithPets.com

HEALTHY "PEOPLE FOOD" FOR DOGS

It doesn't have to be the holidays for us to want to treat our dogs. We love to indulge ourselves—and them—and are careful to avoid poisoning pets with high-risk foods like chocolate, macadamia nuts, avocados, or raisins/grapes. Artificial sweeteners keep owners lean, but any goodies sweetened with Xylitol could cause canine liver failure.

So when the aroma of baking and roasting turns on the doggy drool, what human foods are safe for dogs to snack on? Actually, dogs have been eating the same foods people do for centuries and not only live to tell about it, they thrive. And holistic vets often recommend some of these foods for a more natural way to treat your doggy best friend.

1. **Lean Meat:** Chicken is a favorite but dogs will relish nearly any type of meat. A hunk of firm beef also can scrub teeth for dental health then your dog must chew. Turkey contains tryptophan, a natural sleep aid that works to calm excited pooches during holiday visits.

2. **Organ meats:** Don't toss out the giblets when you roast your holiday bird. Tongue, heart, liver and gizzards are power-packed with vitamins and minerals that help support the dog's own organs—so even if you don't care for liver, your dog will thank you for this healthy treat.

3. **Green veggies:** Dogs are omnivores and often relish vegetable treats. Some favorites include broccoli, asparagus, spinach and green beans. Does your doggy graze on grass? Offer him parsley—it will also freshen his breath.

4. **Beets:** Holistic veterinarians say raw beets pack a powerful punch for cleansing the liver. Dogs may relish small amounts of cooked beets as a treat.



Useful Tips... For Our Everyday Living

1. Using a stapler to add things to your key ring.
2. Use an empty Chap Stick tube to hide your money while on vacation.
3. Cut open toilet paper rolls, and use it as a cuff to save your wrapping paper and keep it from unrolling.
4. Use a bread tab to hold your spot on a roll of tape.
5. Take the annoying sliver of soap from an almost used up bar, and stick it onto a new bar.
6. When heating leftovers, space out a circle in the middle. These leftovers will heat up much more evenly.
7. Use an accented letter as your pass code and no one will be able to guess it.
8. Keep a square of cardboard in a Zip Lock bag with you to protect small important documents (like checks from getting wet from rain and keep them uncreased).
8. Drill holes in the bottom of your garbage and/or trash cans. This will make putting in and taking out bags much easier...with no more suction problems.
9. Use a squeeze-ketchup bottle top with your Shopvac to clean your keyboard, phone, microphone or other nook on an electronic device.
10. Don't burn yourself with those hard to reach candles. Instead, light a stick of spaghetti and then light the wick with the burning spaghetti stick.
11. Put a small amount of water in a glass when your microwave your pizza to keep the crust from getting chewy.
12. Use a spring from an old pen to keep your charger from bending and breaking.
13. Use half of a pool noodle to protect your car door from slamming against the garage wall.
14. Use a magnet to find nails and studs in your wall.
15. Put coffee into an ice tray so when you make an ice coffee. By doing this your ice coffee doesn't get watered down.
16. After popping microwave popcorn, separate the opening of the bag just enough for the unpopped kernels to fall out and shake upside down over the bowl or trash.
17. Use spring-loaded binder clips to fix broken keyboard feet.
18. A frozen, saturated sponge in a Zip Lock bag makes an icepack that won't drip all over when it melts.
19. Turn an empty six-pack carrier into an outdoor dining kit. It will hold your ketchup, mustard, plastic wear, salt, etc.
20. When traveling in a foreign country, carry pictures of the places you want to visit while traveling in countries where the English is rarely spoken.
21. To make BLTs or any toasted sandwich, place two slices of bread in a single toaster slot. This way the bread gets warm and toasty on the outside and stays soft and chewy on the inside.
22. Fill a plastic water bottle a quarter of the way full and lay that water bottle on its side. Place into the freezer. This way when frozen you can fill the bottle with water and have ice cold water to go. ☐

Dear Sheltie fanciers,

This newsletter is being sent out for FREE to Sheltie fanciers who requested more up-to-date information about Shelties and their activities. Past newsletters are posted on our secure website (www.sheltie.com) under "Newsletter."

If you know of someone else who would like to begin receiving this e-mail newsletter, please send us his or her e-mail address. If you ever wish to stop receiving these free Sheltie newsletters and articles, let us know by sending an e-mail to s.pacesetter@sheltie.com.

Please send us (via e-mail) any timely articles which you think should be shared among other Sheltie folks. We accept Specialty show information and contact information, along with timely announcements...such as symposiums and teaching events.

Visit our secure website (www.sheltie.com) for:

- The "*Trade Secrets*" book
(the pre-publication price is still available)
- "*Sheltie Pacesetter*" back issues
(November/December 1983 through SUMMER 2012)
— Also see our "**BLOW OUT SALE**" for many back issues!
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