

## DID YOU KNOW...?

- Weather forecasters suggest that Long Island is due for a severe hurricane or tropical storm in the near future.
- Nearly 2 out of every 3 households on Long Island own animals.
- During emergencies and evacuation situations, pet owners are among the most hesitant and vulnerable populations because of the fear of having to leave their pets behind.
- Most evacuation shelters are NOT pet-friendly.
- Following Hurricane Katrina, a National Survey from the American Humane Association (2007) found that approximately 47% of Americans surveyed would refuse rescue assistance if they had to leave their family pet(s) behind!
- County Officials, along with the SPCA, have identified a need for pet owners in Suffolk County to make an emergency evacuation plan that includes their pets.



**The Key To Safety Is Good  
Planning And Preparation For  
Everyone In Your Home!**



4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning Leadership, citizenship, and life skills.

4-Her's in Suffolk County have joined with the Suffolk County SPCA to help educate residents on Long Island on the importance of planning for your family and pets in the event of an emergency.

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For more information on disaster preparedness for your entire family, please visit:

### **Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County**

4-H Youth Development Program  
350 Yaphank Ave., Yaphank, NY 11980-0129  
631-852-4959  
[www.ccesuffolk.org](http://www.ccesuffolk.org)

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### **The Suffolk County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA)**

363 Route 111  
Smithtown, New York 11787  
631-382-SPCA  
[www.suffolkspca.org](http://www.suffolkspca.org)

Cornell Cooperative Extension in Suffolk County provides equal program and employment opportunities.

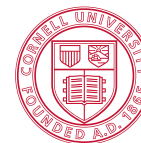
*Cornell Cooperative Extension is funded in part by Suffolk County through the office of the County Executive, and the County Legislature.*

# are **YOU** ready?



## **Disaster Preparedness for Pet Owners**

*presented by:*



**Cornell University**  
Cooperative Extension  
of Suffolk County  
4-H Youth Development

and the



**Suffolk SPCA**

## It's Hurricane Season on Long Island...

In the event of a natural or manmade disaster, 'failing to plan is planning to fail'! Three simple steps can help prepare you and ALL of your loved ones in the event of a disaster or emergency:

### 1 Make a Family Plan that includes your pets!

Many people treat their pets as 'family'. Because our pets depend on us, it is important that we remember their safety needs during a disaster or emergency, as we prepare ourselves and our families. If we have a plan on how we can take care of our pets during an emergency, we can increase the safety and reaction time for our whole family.

*A Family Plan can include:*

- Having a list of emergency contact numbers (friends, relatives, etc.) posted to review with each family member.
- Deciding where to meet if a disaster strikes.
- Knowing safe places inside of your home to stay if you are required to 'shelter-in'.
- Having a plan for your pets: Most shelters do not allow animals.



Our pets depend on us. Always include your pets in your family plan—do not leave them at home alone during an emergency or evacuation.

- Flooding could cause your pets to drown if left alone.
- Structural damage to your home could cause your pet severe harm, or your pet could escape and become lost.
- Evacuation may cause you to be away from your home for days or even weeks at a time.



### 2 Prepare an Evacuation Kit for your Pet

During an emergency, time is precious!

Have a ready-to-go evacuation kit with pet supplies such as food, water, portable bowls, a leash/harness/carrier and any special medications needed prepared ahead of time.

The kit should be easy to transport and kept in an accessible spot such as the trunk of your car or near an exit in your home.

Pet carriers and other supplies are available at most local pet supply stores and some veterinarian's clinics.



### 3 Stay Informed

On Long Island, natural threats such as hurricanes, winter storms, and flooding can strike unexpectedly. While it is impossible to determine when a natural or manmade disaster will arise, having a plan for and knowledge about each situation can be the key to your family's safety.

- If possible, stay tuned to your local television or radio stations for official news and instructions as information becomes available.
- Some parts of the South Shore are barely above sea-level: Find out if you live in a 'flood zone' and where the nearest evacuation routes in your area are.
- If you own livestock, farm animals, or have pets with other special needs, be aware of the additional preparation and planning that is necessary in transporting, relocating, or sheltering your animal(s) during an emergency.

The Suffolk SPCA recommends the following items to be included in your pet emergency evacuation kit:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Pet carrier/crate and bedding (for cats, dogs, and other small animals) | <input type="checkbox"/> Pet comfort items (towels, blankets, toys)             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leash/collar/muzzle/harness   | <input type="checkbox"/> Current photos   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5-day supply of food and water  | <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic bags, paper towels, disposable gloves          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Manual can opener (if needed)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Disinfectant   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special medications   | <input type="checkbox"/> First aid kit  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food and water bowls  | <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlights, batteries                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Identification tags (for pet and carrier)                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Detailed instructions for animal care & rescue workers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Current medical and vaccination records                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Out-of-state telephone contact                         |