

## What about my pets and animals during an emergency?

Should severe weather or a disaster strike in York County, the York County Animal Response Plan will be implemented. That plan, which calls for the activation of a number of pet-friendly and emergency animal shelters. The York County Animal Response Plan is incorporated in the York County Emergency Operations Plan.

If available, a county animal-response team (CART) is responsible for implementing the animal response plan. This team consists of citizen volunteers and veterinarians committed to helping animals in case of disaster by working at temporary pet shelters. The York County Animal Control Department will be the lead agency in all animal emergency situations.

Our ability to help animals in a disaster will depend on the help of caring citizens and professional volunteers. Please consider volunteering to assist animal control in the planning and response in the event the animal response plan is implemented. Thank you for helping us to save animals lives.

Hurricanes, floods, train derailments, nuclear plant emergencies, explosions and other disasters are devastating not only to us but also to our pets and livestock, who are frequently left helpless when disaster strikes.

### Plan Ahead

By planning ahead you can save the lives of your animals. Here are some important tips to remember:

Develop an evacuation plan that includes your animals. Review it and update it regularly. Learn the location of pet-friendly shelters and hotels and have a designated destination if you have to leave home. Contact friends or relatives in advance to see if you and your pets would be welcome during an emergency. In a nuclear plant accident this needs to be out side of the 10 mile emergency planning zone around the Catawba Nuclear Station.

Check on area boarding kennels and veterinary hospitals. Find out if they have evacuation plans in event of a disaster.

Be prepared to evacuate when advised by local government authorities. Have all supplies, kits, transportation arrangements and evacuation locations ahead of time. If you are told to evacuate, do not leave companion animals home alone. **If the situation is bad enough for you to leave, then your animals should not be left behind.**

Prepare a pet emergency supply kit for your animals. The kit should include:

Current photos of your animal for identification, including close ups of any special identifying markings.

Proof of current rabies and distemper vaccinations (be sure to keep all vaccinations current on your pets).

Supply of any medications your pet may be taking. It's also a good idea to have a prescription for any medications your pets need in case you run out.

Water bowls and bottled water for three days per animal.

Food bowls and food for three days per animal.

Spray disinfectant, paper towels and plastic trash bags to handle animal waste properly.

Appropriate sized pet carrier or crate for each animal. Be sure to familiarize your animal with the crate before a disaster. It will be a safe haven if you do evacuate.

Towels, blankets, toys, brushes and combs.

Old newspapers.

Cat litter and disposable litter pans.

Flashlight and radio with extra batteries for each.

### **Large Animals**

The animal emergency plan is primarily for domestic pets and companion animals. Plans for large and farm animals should be considered also. Supplies for evacuating large animals include:

- Halters, leads, tape, rope
- ID bands
- Fly spray
- Medical supplies, including bandages
- Three days' supply of food and water for each animal.