

# Disaster Preparedness

Successful disaster response depends on advance preparation—don't wait until the last minute. Your pets are depending on you!

## Have a Plan

Every member of your family should be included in your disaster plan, and that includes your pet. To best prepare, create a Disaster Kit for your pet. Preparation now will help you be the lifesaver that your pet depends on!

- If you evacuate, take your pets.
- Find a safe place ahead of time that will allow you to bring pets.
- Make sure your pets are wearing up-to-date identification tags at all times. Microchips increase the likelihood that a lost pet will be reunited with its owners.
- The Virginia Beach Animal Care & Control Center is the primary location for sheltering pets in case of an emergency. The Virginia Beach SPCA accepts pets in conjunction with Animal Control. These services are available only to those pets whose families are under mandatory evacuation orders.
- If you don't evacuate, wait out the storm or disaster with your pets in a safe area in your home.
- Be patient with your pets after a disaster and don't allow them to roam loose.
- Visit [vbspca.com/resources/disaster-response](http://vbspca.com/resources/disaster-response) for more tips on what to do when faced with a disaster.

## Protecting Wildlife

It's baby season! April through September is the busiest time of year for our Wildlife Program—here are some pointers on how to keep our wild friends safe:

- Please keep your cats indoors and keep an eye on your dogs! Domestic pets are one of the biggest dangers to wildlife. More than 20% of the injured wildlife we receive are babies that have been caught by cats or dogs. A cat's mouth is full of bacteria and even minor injuries by cats can prove fatal.
- Keep an eye out for injured wildlife and downed nests after wind-producing storms such as hurricanes or nor'easters. After a storm, take a walk around your yard to look for squirrel nests (which may look like a pile of leaves), bird nests, or flooded bunny nests.
- If you find any animals that may need help, you can line a small box with a cloth and cut holes for air ventilation. Place the animal in the box and keep it in a warm, quiet location away from all people and animals. Handle the animal as little as possible, and call our Wildlife Referral Line at **757-263-4762**. This line is staffed 24/7 by trained wildlife volunteers who can give you information on where to take the animal.
- Visit [vbspcawildlife.com](http://vbspcawildlife.com) for more information.

Our facility and volunteers take in over 2000 wild animals every year. The VBSPCA Wildlife Program is bigger than ever before and we are always in need of new volunteers to become a part of our team! Visit [vbspcawildlife.com/volunteer](http://vbspcawildlife.com/volunteer) for more information on the many volunteer opportunities available. If you are interested in joining us, please call the VBSPCA at 757-427-0070 or send an email to [volunteer@vbspca.com](mailto:volunteer@vbspca.com).



## Make a Kit

- **Collar & ID tags** – Include pet's name, owner's name, cell phone number and alternate contact info. Your pet should wear this at all times!
- **Harness/Leash/Cat Carrier** – Include a reliable means of restraint for each pet.
- **Bowls** - Spill proof bowls are good for use in kennels or carriers
- **Food** – FEMA recommends packing enough food for 3 days.
- **Water** – Include an appropriate amount of potable water for your pet's breed/age/weight.
- **Medications** – Pack one week's worth of any necessary meds.
- **First Aid Kit** – Be sure to include pet-safe supplies.
- **Vet Records** – Keep up-to-date records dry in a sealed plastic baggie.
- **Photos of Your Pet** – Capture any special markings.
- **Waste Disposal Options** – Include litter pans and litter for cats, poop baggies for dogs.
- **Calming Items** – Grab your pet's favorite blanket or toy.

Support the animals today! Visit [www.vbspca.com](http://www.vbspca.com)

