

Pets and Cyclones

SAFEGUARDING TOWNSVILLE'S ENVIROMENTAL HEALTH

Owners must include pets in their emergency plans. A disaster may mean evacuation or confining a pet at home, and you should know how to best care for your pets in either case.

HELPING YOUR PET IN A CYCLONE

It is always best where possible, to remain at home during a cyclone. If you have pets, bring them inside with you and make them comfortable. You should include a pet emergency kit in your own preparations (see over) and keep this handy.

Cyclones are stressful for pets as well as people, but you can encourage calm pet behavior with praise and attention. Close the blinds, put on a radio, and distract pets with games and food. Rather than trying to sooth and comfort obviously scared pets, be cheerful and in control to demonstrate that nothing is wrong.

Remember, animals react differently under stress. Always keep dogs securely leashed. Transport cats in carriers. Don't leave animals unattended – even the most trustworthy pets may panic, hide, try to escape or even bite or scratch.

IF YOU ARE EVACUATED

It is important to understand that **most disaster shelters will not accept pets** because of health and safety regulations and other considerations (guide and disability dogs are allowed). You may have to confine your pet at home, or make boarding arrangements early

LOOK AFTER YOUR PETS EARLY

You should keep a list of "pet friendly" places like kennels, catteries, veterinarians etc. (including 24- hour phone numbers), with other disaster information and supplies. If you are lucky enough to have notice of an impending disaster, call ahead for reservations.

Alternatively, ask friends, relatives, or others outside the local area to shelter your pets, you will need to move early before travel becomes dangerous.

- Ensure your pet emergency kit is ready to take at short notice.
- Make sure all dogs and cats are wearing secure collars with up-to-date identification.

If you are forced to leave your pets at home during a disaster:

- Confine them inside a secure part of the house (laundry or bathroom possibly)
- Ensure they have access to an elevated spot (table, counter etc.) to escape possible flooding.

While leaving pets confined at home is a serious decision, they have a much better chance inside than being left to roam unprotected.

If you have larger animals, take early action to protect or relocate them to appropriate premises.

MORE INFORMATION AND CONTACTING COUNCIL

If you require any further information about this or any other responsible pet ownership issue, please call Council's Customer Service Centre on 1300 878 001.

Alternatively a range of Fact Sheets along with information regarding Local Law No. 2 can be accessed by visiting the Townsville City Council website www.townsville.qld.gov.au and following the links to animals.



PET DISASTER KIT

Have you thought to include your pet's needs in your disaster kit? To ensure your pet's welfare will not be jeopardised in the unfortunate event that a disaster does strike, you will find a listing below of important items which should be used to create a **Pet Disaster Kit**.

Collars, Leads and ID Tags

Displaying your name and phone number.

Secure Portable Carriers

To assist in transporting animals safely. Carriers should be large enough for your pet to stand comfortably, turn around and lie down.

Towels and/or Blankets Including Pet Toys

For bedding, warmth and security to reduce stress.

Medications and Medical Records

Keep these items stored in a waterproof container, including contact information for your vet and treatment. Also include a copy of your pet's current vaccination history.

First Aid Book and Kit

See inside booklet for contents or consult your vet as to what you should include in your first aid kit.

Current Photos and Descriptions

Of your animals to help others identify them in case you become separated and to prove that they are yours or need to make "lost" posters.

Food and Water (including can opener and spoon)

To last at least 7 days for each pet. Canned food should be single-serving size, as you may not have access to a fridge.

Travel Bowls

For food and water. Fold up bowls are ideal as they are easily stored.

Litter box and Litter

Aluminum roasting pans are perfect and newspaper/paper towels can be used for litter. Also include a **poop scoop** and **plastic bags** for animal litter clean-up, and disposal.

Zip Ties

Can be used if required for strong and easy fixtures to cages/collars.

Phone Numbers

Of your local emergency vet clinic, animal shelter and council.

Update your Contact Details

With your vet, local council and micro-chipping company.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Keep all items stored in a container that can be carried easily. Remember, food, water and medications need to be rotated out of your Pet Disaster Kit every 2 months, otherwise they may become out of date or ineffective.

