

PROTECTING YOUR PETS

- Humane Society of North Pinellas: (727) 797-7722
- Pinellas County Animal Services: (727) 582-2600
- Pinellas Animal Foundation: (727) 347-7387
- ***Public Hurricane shelters currently will not accept pets, so make arrangements now! Pet Friendly shelter locations will be announced when opened.***
- Friends or relatives living outside evacuation areas provide the best possibilities since more than 150,000 dogs and cats are estimated to live in Pinellas County, according to the Pinellas Animal Foundation. Fewer than 3,000 shelter spaces are available for pets. Foundation officials urge residents to use shelters as a last resort only.
- Most clinics and kennels say they will charge their regular boarding rates and take pets on a first-come first-serve basis. However, some say they will give preference to their regular customers. SPCA shelters will not charge but will accept donations.
- Pets under medication should go to a veterinary hospital.
- The animal should wear an identification collar and be in a carrier or cage. A leash, water bowl, food for at least two days, and any necessary medications with specific care instructions should accompany the animal as well as all materials tagged with proper identification. Pet boarders may require proof that rabies, distemper / parvo, and other pet vaccines are current.
- SPCA officials urge pet owners to heed early warnings because shelters will not come to homes to pick up pets.
- Pinellas County Animal Services suggests that large animals, especially horses, be released into larger open pastures. More than 300 acres will be available in Walsingham Park and the well fields on Keller Circle and old Keystone Road. Horses must have current vaccinations, proof of annual Coggin's test, and appropriate identification. Owners will be required to sign a waiver of liability and to follow directions given at the release sites. Once a storm passes, owners should remove their horses as soon as practical. Horses that are not returned home within seven days will be moved to other holding areas.
- Pinellas County Animal Services recovery efforts have established several temporary collection of points in school yards around our area, so that owners can claim their lost pets closer to home:

Dunedin High School 1651 Pinehurst Road, Dunedin	East Lake High School 1300 Silver Eagle Drive, Tarpon Springs
Palm Harbor Middle School 1800 State Road 584, Palm Harbor	Clearwater High School 540 S. Hercules Ave, Clearwater
- Pinellas County Animal Services encourages pet owners to consider microchip and/or tattoo identifications.
- Pinellas Animal Foundation has a "Hurricane Preparedness for your Pet" brochure that you can pick up from your veterinarian or by calling (727) 347-7387.