



PET-FRIENDLY & SERVICE ANIMALS - SHELTER INFORMATION

<https://www.leegov.com/publicsafety/emergencymanagement/shelters/petshelter>

<https://www.leegov.com/animalservices/safety/hurricane>

In a hurricane pets are subject to the same hazards as people and have many of the same needs. Remember, you cannot bring your pets to the shelter and you may be away from home for a number of days. The best plan is to identify a safe location to evacuate to that allows pets, such as a friend's home or a pet friendly hotel. You can check the internet for sites such as www.pethotelsofamerica.com to find a hotel outside the evacuation area.

Lee County has two Pet-Friendly Shelters: South Fort Myers High School and East Lee County High School in Lehigh, both of which will shelter dogs and cats only accompanied by owner.

- Lee County Animal Services (www.leelostpets.com) manages this shelter.
- **The Pet-Friendly Shelter is first come/first served. No pre-registration is required or allowed.**
- **Use of this shelter is restricted to persons living in an area that is currently under evacuation.**
- **You must shelter at the facility with your pet** (in other words, you cannot drop your pet at the facility and shelter elsewhere). The pets will be sheltered in a separate location at the facility from the pet owners. Owners will be responsible for feeding, exercising and cleaning up behind their pets.

Service Animals Only may accompany an owner to either a public shelter or a Special Care Shelter.

Pets and Comfort Animals are NOT permitted at the Special Care Shelters and are permitted only at the designated Pet-Friendly Shelter.

Your pets and Service Animal will need a Hurricane Disaster Kit, too. Include:

- Lee County License and other Identification** (Talk to your veterinarian about microchip identification for your pets.)
- Have a couple of **good photos** of your pet in case you get separated from your pet.
- All vaccinations must be up-to-date.** Have a **copy of the records** with you.
- Water for several days – one gallon per day for seven days for each animal - and a bowl
- non-perishable food for several days, including treats – and a feeding dish
- a collar and leash. Be sure identification tags are on the collars .
- your pet's prescriptions as well as medications to keep your pets healthy, clean and free of parasites
- clean-up supplies (litter box. Litter, scoop for cats) (plastic bags) to keep your pets healthy, clean and free of parasites
- sturdy, impact resistant cage or carrier to comfortably hold your pet (no soft carriers or make-shift containers)
- bring toys, chew toys and comfort items for stress relief, bedding

Remember:

- Never leave your pets outside during a storm.
- Never leave a cat with a dog, even if the two are normally friends.
- Confine and keep small pets (birds, hamsters, etc.) away from cats and dogs.
- Dangerous animals should be secured in special crates or cages.
- Any unsecured animals posing a danger will be at risk of being destroyed.

All animal facilities in the path of a hurricane are subject to some degree of damage or flooding. Keep in mind, boarding kennels and animal hospitals may be without electricity or potable water and have limited personnel and supplies for days to weeks following a disaster.

Call Lee County Animal Services at (239) 533-7387 for more information on the Pet Friendly Shelters.

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