

Helpful Tips from AC&C to Keep Pets Safe During an Emergency

(New York, October 29, 2013) – Disasters can be a stressful time for you and your family. Making an emergency plan in advance can help keep you and your pet safe and united. In the weeks following Super Storm Sandy, AC&C reunited lost pets with their owners. Here are a few helpful tips to prevent your pet from being displaced during an emergency:

1. Long before any disaster strikes, make sure your pet has an ID on his/her collar in case he/she gets lost. All dogs in NYC are required to have a license. AC&C also recommends that you microchip your pet as a more permanent form of identification. These simple steps will make it easier to reunite lost pets and their owners.
2. Always bring pets indoors at the first warning of a storm or disaster.
3. Make sure all doors and windows are closed to prevent your pet from escaping.
4. If you must evacuate from your home, be sure to include your pet in the evacuation plan. Do not leave your pet behind.
5. Make advance arrangements with family or friends to care for you and your pet in an emergency event. This can include pet-friendly hotels or motels outside of the affected area.
6. Create a *Go Bag* for your pet. The bag should be kept handy and include: medical records, current picture of your pet, water, pet food, a favorite toy, medications, litter and pet first aid supplies to last at least three days. Take this with you if you evacuate.
7. Many of the City's evacuation centers and emergency shelters are pet friendly. People are encouraged to evacuate with their pets to these locations.

Taking precautions before a disaster happens can prevent your pet from getting lost or injured. If your pet is displaced during a disaster, AC&C will make an effort to bring your pet home. Before, during, and after Super Storm Sandy, AC&C staff and volunteers worked to ensure the safety of the animals in the shelter and across New York City:

- AC&C Field Officers responded to emergency calls from the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and the emergency pet hotline during the storm.
- As pets can help people cope during stressful times, AC&C Field Officers went to homes and brought animals to emergency shelters so people could be with their pets.
- All of the animals in the Staten Island Care Center were evacuated to other Care Centers as a precautionary measure to keep them safe.
- During the storm, staff slept at the Care Centers in Brooklyn and Manhattan to care for over 500 animals and provide emergency support to animals in need of help.
- Field Officers canvassed Far Rockaway and Staten Island areas daily for three weeks for loose or stray animals.
- AC&C also checked 300 apartments throughout November and December in Far Rockaway and Coney Island to rescue pets that were left behind.
- To give owners more time to locate their pets, holding times were extended for all animals brought in from storm-damaged areas.
- For animals that could not be reunited with their owners, AC&C's New Hope Department placed over 500 animals with partnering organizations between October 29th to November 13th. Approximately 70 displaced animals were sent to the ASPCA temporary boarding facility.

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About Animal Care & Control of NYC

Animal Care & Control of New York City (AC&C) is one of the largest animal shelter-systems in the country, taking in more than 30,000 animals each year. As a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization since 1995, AC&C rescues, cares for and finds loving homes for homeless and abandoned animals in New York City. AC&C facilities operate in all five boroughs. Visit <http://nycacc.org> for more information.