

## **Disaster Preparedness for Dog, Cat and Horse Owners from Bernalillo County Animal Care Services**

### **Dogs and Cats**

- Be sure your pet has permanent identification in the form of a microchip or tattoo and temporary identification in the form of a rabies and license tag on the animal's collar.
- Keep a current photo of your pet. In the event you need to retrieve your pet from a shelter, you will need proof of ownership.
- Vaccinations should be current. If you are going to board your pet, you will need proof of current vaccinations.
- Be sure you have a cage or pet carrier that your pet is comfortable with so you know you will be able to use it in the event of an emergency.
- Have a leash available for use for each pet you own.
- Exchange animal care information with a neighbor who could assist in the event of an emergency when you are not available. Let your veterinarian know who else can request emergency treatment for your pets.
- If you can't take your pet with you at the time of an evacuation, bring the pet inside and leave it in a room with no windows but with proper ventilation. Leave dry food and fresh water in non-spill containers. Do not leave vitamin treats because these can cause illness if overeaten.
- If you lose your pet during an emergency, check the shelter at least once every other day. Create a flyer with your pet's picture and contact information.

### **Dog and Cat Disaster Readiness Kit**

- Non-spill food and water bowls
- Ten day supply of food and water
- Pet carrier or cage
- Medications and instructions
- Pet first-aid kit
- Veterinarian records, including vaccinations, and vet information
- Leash and collar
- Blankets
- Toys/treats
- Plastic bags for waste disposal
- Cat litter box and litter

### **Horses**

- Be sure your horse(s) has permanent identification such as tattoos, brands, etched hooves or microchips. Also use temporary identification such as duct tape, neck bands, or halters with permanent writing will work. Photograph, identify, and inventory your horses.
- Keep medical histories; write down medical instructions; keep a record of current vaccinations.

- Keep horse trailers and vans in working condition and full of gas. Be sure you and your animals know how to load in the trailer. If you don't have horse trailers, identify who does that will assist you.
- Keep fire breaks around your house, barns, and property lines.
- Identify high ground on or near your property in the event of flooding.
- Evacuate your horses early, if possible, and listen to the Emergency Broadcast System (EBS) on tv or radio.
- When returning after an evacuation, check fences to be sure they are standing. Check the land for sharp objects. Watch out for downed power lines, fallen trees, and other debris.

The leading cause of death in large animals during a disaster are:

- Collapsed barns
- Kidney failure due to dehydration
- Electrocution from downed power lines
- Fencing failures

### **Horse Disaster Readiness Kit**

- Stored food
- Water buckets and water (identify alternate water sources in case power is lost).
- Plastic trash barrel with a lid
- Leg wraps
- Horse blanket or sheet
- First aid kit
- Flashlights
- Portable radio and extra batteries
- Non-nylon leads and halters
- Portable generators
- Shovel
- Fly spray
- Wire cutters
- Sharp knife
- Hoof Pick