



GEMA



FEMA

News Release

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HELP AVAILABLE FOR GEORGIA PETS AND OWNERS

ATLANTA — More than a month after September rains washed Georgia families out of their homes, dozens of pets are still unclaimed by their owners throughout the flooded areas. Families that lost pets in any county affected by September storms should check with local animal control officials to find out if their pet has been rescued.

Officials with local, state and federal agencies agree that September flooding raised awareness throughout Georgia of the need to include pets in family emergency plans. The Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are jointly promoting pet planning as an important of emergency preparedness.

“‘Ready, pet, go!’ might be a good variation on the old slogan,” said Charley English, head of flood recovery programs for GEMA. English said there are several steps that Georgia families should consider before an emergency reaches their front door.

Formulate Your Pet Plan

English said the first step is to make a plan that spells out how you will round up and carry your pets and where you are all going. If your family goes to a public shelter, keep in mind that pets may not be allowed inside. Consider family or friends outside your immediate area who would be willing to take care of your pets in an emergency, or make arrangements with a kennel or veterinary hospital.

Friends Can Help

Plan with neighbors, friends or relatives to make sure that a pet care buddy is available to care for or evacuate your pets if you are unable to do so. Show them where you keep your pet’s emergency supply kit. Pets will need food, water, meds and sanitation on the road, just like at home.

Keep Track of Fido

Talk with your veterinarian about a microchip. If you and your pet are separated, this permanent implant for your pet can help a veterinarian or shelter identify Fido if he shows up there after an adventure.

Final Touches

Obtain “Pets Inside” stickers and place them on your doors or windows to provide information on the number and types of pets in your home for firefighters and rescue workers. Consider putting a phone number on the sticker where you can be reached in an emergency. If you take your pets with you, remember to remove the stickers or mark them out.

(MORE)

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For more information and checklists to help you make emergency plans for your pets, visit GEMA's www.ready.ga.gov/Prepare/Pets or FEMA's www.ready.gov. Information is also available through a toll-free helpline: 800-BE-READY (800-237-3239).

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, call FEMA toll-free at 800-621-FEMA (3362). For TTY call 800-462-7585.

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For more information on Georgia's disaster recovery, visit www.fema.gov or www.gema.ga.gov or www.ready.ga.gov/ or <http://twitter.com/GeorgiaEMA>