

Providing Care for Your Pets During Emergencies



Session Law Acts 2014, Chapter 54

AN ACT ENSURING THE SAFETY OF PEOPLE WITH PETS IN DISASTERS

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 1 of chapter 639 of the acts of 1950, as amended by section 1 of chapter 579 of the acts of 1968, is hereby amended by inserting after the word “persons” the following words:- and household pets and service animals, as defined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 5170b,.

SECTION 2. Said section 1 of said chapter 639, as so amended, is hereby further amended by adding the following paragraph:-
Any emergency plan of operations shall include strategies to support the needs of people with household pets and the needs of household pets under their care, including service animals. The local organization for civil defense shall take appropriate steps to educate the public regarding the resources available in the event of an emergency and the importance of emergency preparedness planning.

SECTION 3. Any emergency plan of operations shall be consistent with sections 1 and 2 not later than 12 months after the effective date of this act.

Approved, March 24, 2014.

Pet Ownership Statistics

- AVMA, 2012, report:

36.5% of households owned dogs

30.4% of households owned cats

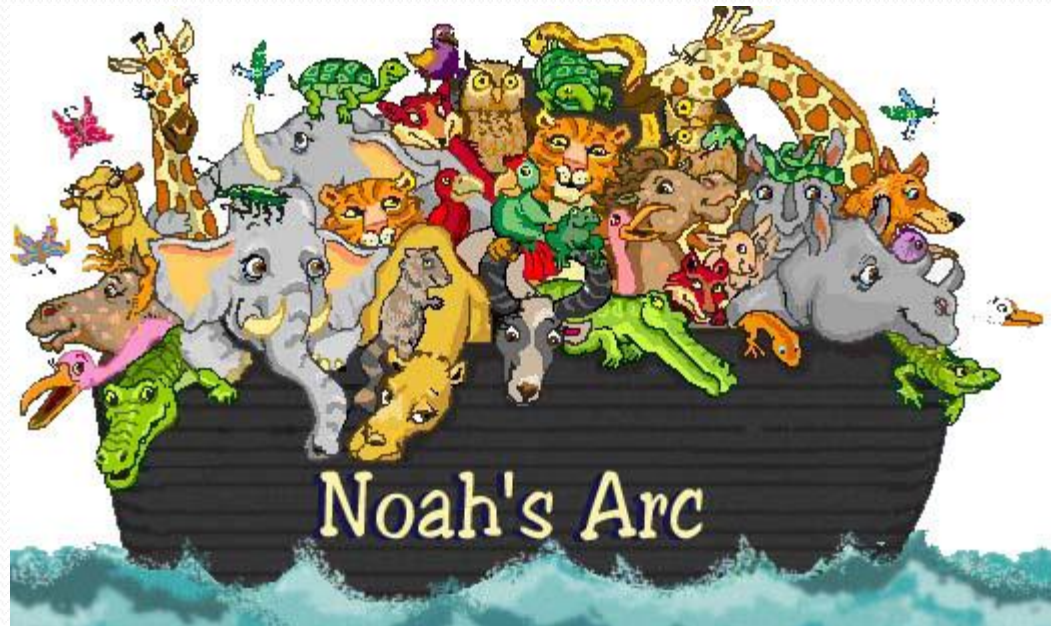
1.5% of households owned horses

- Most households that have pets, have more than one pet.

- **Pets are usually considered “family members”**



Where Will The Pets Go?





WHEN YOU GO, THEY GO
Don't Leave Home Without Them

Ice Storm 2008

Was I prepared?



Emergency Plan for Pets

- Create an evacuation plan for you, your family, and your pets
- Consider family and friends who would be willing to take you and your pets in
- Locate hotels and motels that are pet friendly
- Research local boarding facilities (kennels or veterinary hospitals)



Make A Plan

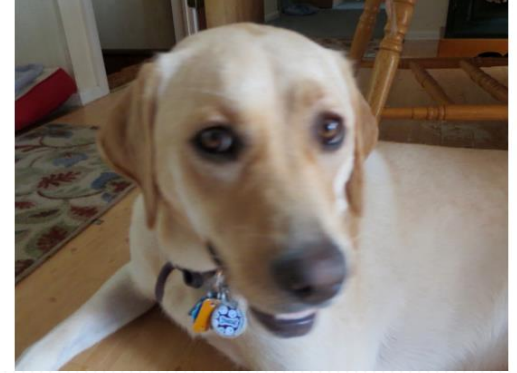
- Develop a buddy system
- Plan with neighbors, friends, or relatives to make sure that someone is available to care for pets if you are unable to do so
- Talk to your veterinarian about emergency planning
- Gather contact information for emergency animal treatment

Disaster Supply Checklist for Pets

- Identification
- Sturdy leashes and collars
- Medications and medical records
- Food and water
- Carriers or crate
- First aid kit
- Cat litter & litter box
- Cleaning supplies

Identification

- Collar, Tag & Leash
- ID Tag, Current Dog License, Rabies tag
- Microchip (Registered with a national database)
- ID Tag with your temporary information
- Current photo of each pet WITH OWNER
- Current photos and descriptions of your pets to help others identify them in case you and your pets become separated and to prove that they are yours



Regular Medical Needs

- Two-week supply of all medications prescribed to your pets
- Medical records
- Store all medical records and medications in a waterproof container or plastic zip top bag

Pet Carriers / Crates

- Carriers must be large enough for the animal to stand comfortably, turn around, and lie down.
- Each pet in a separate crate/carrier
- Your pet may have to stay in the carrier for hours at a time while you have taken shelter away from home.



Bedding

- Blankets, towels
- News papers
- Favorite toys
- Kong toys etc.

Food and Water

- 3-7 day supply for each pet
- Manual can opener
- Bowls & Buckets
 - No-spill or No-tip bowls
 - Flat sided water buckets for dogs, hang inside of the crate
 - Small paper plates for feeding cats

First Aid Kit

- First aid guide book
- Roller bandages
- Scissors
- Gauze
- Antibiotic ointment
- Rubber gloves
- Medical tape



Cleaning Supplies

- Paper Towels
- Disinfectant
- Plastic Trash Bags
- Hand Sanitizer
- Baby wipes
- Plastic Poop Bags



Cat litter box

- Litter box should fit inside the crate
- Cat litter scoop
- Cat litter, should be the type that you regularly use



Where is the animal shelter?

Framingham Animal Control

50 Western Ave.

Framingham, MA

Household pets, such as dogs, cats and small animals in cages will be sheltered in the event of an emergency when an emergency shelter has been opened.

Service Animals

Service animals are defined as dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. Examples of such work or tasks include guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, pulling a wheelchair, alerting and protecting a person who is having a seizure, reminding a person with mental illness to take prescribed medications, calming a person with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) during an anxiety attack, or performing other duties. Service animals are working animals, not pets. The work or task a dog has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person's disability. Dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA.

There are broader protections for service animals under state and federal fair housing laws.

Service animals can include many types of animals beyond dogs, including for example, cats, birds and rabbits. Tenants with disabilities who live or seek to live in an apartment, multi-family house, condo, or townhouse with three or more units for rent or sale, may be allowed to live there with their service animal if they can show with sufficient documentation that the animal mitigates the disability. Residents cannot be charged a pet fee for their service animal.

For more information about service animals or accommodating individuals with disabilities, call the Civil Rights Division at (617) 963-2939. You can also review the [service animal advisory](#) published by the United States Department of Justice.

The care and supervision of a service animal is solely the responsibility of his or her owner.

The Shelter is not required to provide care, food or a special location for the animal.

The Shelter may designate an area for owners to take their animal to relieve itself.



Q: What if a service animal barks or growls at other people or otherwise acts out of control?

A: You may exclude any animal, including a service animal, from your facility when that animal's behavior poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others. For example, any service animal that displays vicious behavior towards other guests or customers may be excluded. You may not make assumptions, however, about how a particular animal is likely to behave based on your past experience with other animals. Each situation must be considered individually.

Although a public accommodation may exclude any service animal that is out of control, it should give the individual with a disability using the service animal the option of continuing to enjoy the public accommodation without the service animal on the premises.

NEADS 2013 Spring Graduates



How can I tell if an animal is really a service animal and not just a pet?

A: Some, but not all, service animals wear special collars and harnesses. If you are not certain that an animal is a service animal, you are allowed to ask (1) if it is a service animal required because of a disability, or (2) what tasks the animal performs. You cannot ask for documentation or certification that it is a service animal. Currently, there is no state or national certification available for service animals so businesses are not permitted to inquire if the animal is licensed or certified or whether the animal has identification papers



Hart, owner of the Mystic Pines horse farm, struggles with one of the horses she and others were trying to evacuate from floodwaters surrounding her home and barn on Thunder Bridge Lane in [unclear] and the remaining three had to be rescued later with the help of staff from the Boston Animal Rescue League

FLOOD OF 2006



KRISTEN OLSON

From left, Dan Kessel, a Middleton firefighter; Dr. Lorraine O'Connor, the state veterinarian; Mark Vogel, a rescue specialist with the Boston Animal Rescue League; and Danielle Moore, also a rescue specialist with the ARL, lead Acorn, a 5-year-old pony, through chest-deep waters on Thunder Bridge Lane away from Mystic Pines horse farm because of heavy flooding from the Ipswich River yesterday afternoon. A Middleton firefighter watches the rescue effort from behind in a motor boat. Acorn was the 14th horse taken out of the barn, although the first 13 horses were taken to dry land by riders. See story, middle page, and photos, Page A4.

Eastleigh Farm Barn Collapse

February 19, 2014

























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12:03



Resources

- www.ready.gov
- www.mass.gov
- www.humanesociety.org
- ww.americanhumane.org
- www.smart-mass.org
- <http://www.mass.gov/ago/consumer-resources/your-rights/civil-rights/disability-rights/information-about-service-animals.html>
- www.neads.org