

## A Message from Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg



*As all New Yorkers know, Mother Nature can strike our great City at any time. While it is important for us all to be prepared with family emergency plans, it is just as important to not forget the family pets that rely on us for help during a disaster.*

*I know we all love our dogs, cats and other pets and would never want them to be hurt at a time of crisis. Please read this pamphlet to get some tips on ensuring animals, which are a part of our families, stay safe as well. Proper planning will make you safer and will keep your pets out of harm's way.*



### Take the NYC Critter Quiz:

1. What percentage of the households in NYC have at *least* one pet according to national statistics?  
a) 39%                      b) 81%                      c) 58%
2. How many zoos are there in NYC?
3. How many whales call NYC home?
4. True/False: The Board of Education maintains a farm in Queens.
5. Can you list some of the wildlife living in NYC?
6. How many pet stores and grooming or boarding facilities are there in NYC?  
a) 652                      b) 286                      c) 424
7. How many owners take their pets to the vet?  
a) 40%                      b) 85%                      c) 67%
8. How many carriage and riding horses work in NYC?  
a) 352                      b) 231                      c) 603



## How To Be A Responsible Pet Owner

Be prepared for any disaster or emergency by having a family emergency plan in place that also includes provisions for your pet(s). Assemble a pet survival kit because you may not be able to return home until days after a disaster. Do this before hand so that you may act quickly in the case of an actual disaster.



### IF ASKED TO EVACUATE, DO SO IMMEDIATELY!

DECISIONS TO EVACUATE ARE ONLY MADE WHEN A CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER TO THE PUBLIC EXISTS.

PLEASE HEED ALL WARNINGS!  
WAITUNTIL THE LAST MOMENT CAN LEAVE YOU AND YOUR PET(S) IN HARM'S WAY.

### WHERE SHOULD I GO, AND WHEN?

It is strongly recommended that you seek refuge with friends or family outside of the affected area. Therefore, it is always a good idea to have a family sheltering plan in place that also includes provisions for your pet(s).

When necessary, the City of New York, in conjunction with the American Red Cross, will open Evacuation Shelters throughout the five boroughs for those persons without alternate temporary sheltering. These shelters are away from the dangerous areas. Listen to local TV and radio stations for instructions on seeking shelter and other assistance.

Due to the number of people expected to seek shelter and limited space resources, pets will **NOT** be permitted in the city evacuation centers. The only exception will be service animals such as guide dogs, seizure alert dogs, etc.

## General Tips:

Always be aware of seasonal circumstances and other conditions that might affect your pet(s). Be sure to supply your pet(s) with plenty of water and circulating air during hot summer days as well as providing a warm environment during the winter.



### Answers to New York City Critters Quiz:

1. According to a national survey, 58% of the households in the US own at least one pet. Although that number may seem small, don't forget there are over eight million people in NYC alone! (That's a lot of pets).
2. NYC is home to six zoos: the Bronx Zoo, the Central Park Wildlife Center, the Queens Wildlife Center, the Prospect Park Zoo, the Staten Island Zoo and the Coney Island Aquarium. Were you able to name them all? (It was a trick question because you might have forgotten the aquarium?)
3. NYC is home to five (5) Beluga whales and you can visit them at the Coney Island Aquarium.
4. True! John Bowne High School's Agricultural Department has a 4-acre farm and 500 students enrolled in plant and animal science programs.
5. Just a few of the animals found in NYC are: falcons, deer, skunks, raccoons, possums, Canadian geese etc.
6. There are 286 animal handling facilities licensed to do business in NYC. This total includes pet stores, grooming and boarding facilities.
7. Only 40% of pet owners bring their pets to a veterinarian. Please bring your animal to its "doctor" at least once a year. Sick pets aren't happy pets!
8. There are 352 working horses licensed in NYC (not including the Police Department's mounted unit). 203 are carriage horses and 149 are riding horses.

## PET SURVIVAL KITS

Just like people, pets need to be prepared for disasters. When you pack your own survival kit, make one for your pet(s) as well.

When preparing your pet's survival kit you should include:

- A current color photograph of your pet in case you must search for a lost pet
- Water and food supplies and bowls
- A leash/muzzle/harness
- A copy of all current vaccination and health records, license numbers and microchip numbers
- Medication for your pet (if needed)
- A basic feeding and medication schedule
- A manual can opener
- A pet carrier or cage (hint: a luggage carrier can be used to wheel the carrier around)
- Plastic bags for pick-up
- A first-aid kit to care for your pet (contact your veterinarian to determine what should be placed in the kit)
- A cotton sheet to put over the carrier (hint: this calms pets and makes them feel more secure)



### Some other pet planning suggestions:

(Please Note: Pets, other than service animals, will **NOT** be permitted into city evacuation shelters.)

1. Contact relatives outside the affected area to see if they would be willing to care for you and your pet(s).
2. Contact your vet, groomer or regular boarding facility and see if they provide shelter and care for animals during times of emergencies and disasters. Get on any reservation list.
3. Ask animal shelters in your area whether they provide extra care for pets in the case of an emergency. This should be your last resort.
4. Be mindful that exotic and larger animals may require more planning.
5. The order to evacuate can come at any time, even while you are away. Find a trusted friend or neighbor to take care of your pet(s) in this situation.

## Do...

- **DO** remember that pets get frightened too and during a disaster they may act violently against other animals out of nervousness. Try to keep animals separate during and after the disaster to avoid this problem.
- **DO** make a written disaster plan and be sure to include:
  - Provisions for both you and your pets
  - Appropriate evacuation sites
- **DO** keep your animal in a carrier for the duration of the disaster, this makes the pets feel safer and more secure, and also it is a place they can stay if no other shelter is available after the disaster.

## Don't...

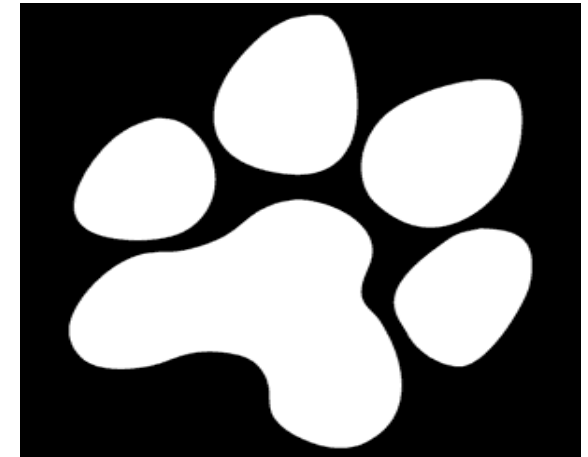
- **DON'T** bring your pets to shelters, they will not be allowed in (except for service animals).
- **DON'T** leave your pets behind during a disaster! If forced to evacuate make sure there is a place for your pets to go. Pets left behind may be injured, harmed or lost.

## Remember...

- Always keep your pet(s) properly ID tagged and use a leash
- Keep all vaccinations up to date
- License your dog (for more information call 212-676-2100)
- Spay or neuter your cats and dogs

Places To Find Information About Disaster Planning For Pets and Other Animals:

- ➔ **OEM** [www.nyc.gov/oem](http://www.nyc.gov/oem)
- ➔ **FEMA** [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)
- ➔ **ARC** [www.redcross.com](http://www.redcross.com)
- ➔ **HSUS** [www.hsus.org](http://www.hsus.org)
- ➔ **ASPCA** [www.asPCA.org](http://www.asPCA.org)
- ➔ **CACC** [www.nycacc.org](http://www.nycacc.org)
- ➔ **AVMA** [www.avma.org](http://www.avma.org)



## Disaster Preparedness for Animals in New York City



### NEW YORK CITY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Michael R. Bloomberg  
**Mayor**

John T. Odermatt  
**Commissioner**