



Emergency Preparedness

THE ANIMAL COMPANION COMPONENT

About the Louisiana SPCA

Founded in 1888 – Oldest and most comprehensive animal welfare organization in Louisiana

- Mission: Promote, protect, and advance the well-being of Louisiana's companion animals
- Primary animal welfare provider for Southeast Louisiana
- Serving urban and rural communities, with a focus on underserved populations

Current Service Areas

- Orleans Parish: Only contracted provider of animal control & rescue (60+ year partnership)
- Plaquemines Parish: Operating shelter since 2020 through parish contract
- Regional Impact: Transport, disaster response, spay/ neuter partnerships & more

Current Programs & Services

- Animal Sheltering
 - Fostering & Adoptions
 - Humane Law Enforcement
 - Pet Food Pantry
 - Community Clinic
 - Community Vaccine Events
 - Veterinary and Behavioral Assistance Programs
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The core of what we learned from Hurricane Katrina:

Saving Pets equals = Saving People



- Based on a poll conducted by the Fritz Institute in 2006, 44% of people did not evacuate for Katrina because they refused to leave their pets behind.
- It's estimated that roughly 259,400 families owned pets in New Orleans before Hurricane Katrina, one can estimate that approximately 114,000+ people did not evacuate because of their pets.

THE PET EVACUATION BILL

Hurricane Katrina illustrated pointedly why *animals must have a seat at the table* in disaster planning.

On June 28, 2006 Governor Kathleen Blanco signed Senate Bill 607 ensuring that animal issues receive a prominent place in disaster and emergency planning statewide. Dubbed the “Pet Evacuation Bill,” Senate Bill 607 essentially mandates that local and state governments include companion animal issues in disaster planning and emergency preparedness. Parishes are required to take the lead in developing and executing the plan and the State is mandated to assist and fill-in the gaps.



TODAY'S DISASTER LANDSCAPE



Faster Storms, Less Time to Act

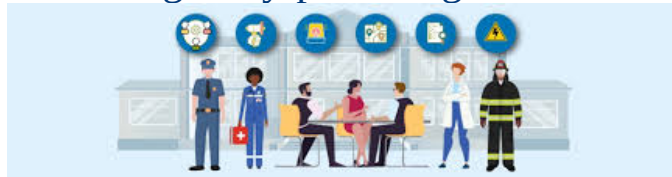
- Storms are now forming and intensifying more quickly
- This leaves less time to prepare and evacuate
- As a result, agencies work together under the City Assisted Sheltering Plan (CASP) to protect residents and pets during emergencies

Hurricane Ida (2021): A Turning Point

- Ida intensified rapidly with little warning
- The City determined there wasn't enough time to evacuate
- CASP was activated to provide shelter and support for those unable to leave

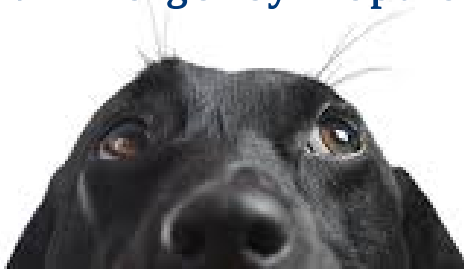
Emergency Response Protocols

- **Established Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs):**
 - We have formal agreements in place with local, regional, and state agencies to ensure access to personnel and resources during emergencies.
- **Coordinated Multi-Level Response Plans:**
 - Our response strategies are aligned at the local, regional, and state levels to ensure efficient and unified action.
- **Identified Backup Shelter Locations and Evacuation Plans:**
 - There are evacuation procedures, and designated backup shelter sites are in place to maintain continuity of care.
- **Co-Located Human and Animal Shelters:**
 - Emergency shelters are designed to accommodate both people and their pets, reducing separation and stress during evacuations.
- **Community Engagement and Education:**
 - We actively educate and involve the public in preparedness efforts, making them key partners in emergency planning.



Exercises & Drills

- The Louisiana SPCA regularly partners with animal welfare groups both in and out of state to plan, train, and improve emergency response plans.
 - Agencies such as RTA and Louisiana SPCA participate in planning meetings for City Assisted Evacuation Plan (CAEP) and City Assisted Sheltering Plan (CASP) with federal, state, and local government, businesses and non-profits
- For Residents in need evacuation assistance, our local government is there to help.
 - Orleans Parish residents can pre-register for evacuation assistance by visiting [nola.gov/ ready](https://nola.gov/ready).
 - Other Parish residents can contact their local office of Homeland Security / Emergency Preparedness for assistance.



Louisiana SPCA's entity
New Orleans Humane & Rescue
collaborates with the City of New
Orleans in the research,
implementation and
evaluation of disaster response
plans for pets.



LASPCA's 3-Step Protocol Addressing Disasters

Step 1:

In preparation for a storm, animals are transported to partner shelters, Plaquemines Parish animals are moved to our Community Clinic, facilities are secured, and supplies and equipment are gathered.

Step 2:

During and immediately after an emergency, we shelter in place, assess damage and community needs, and mobilize our team to respond.

Step 3:

Recovery begins with reopening and responding to community needs, while working to restore normal operations as quickly as possible.

EDUCATING THE PUBLIC IS KEY DISASTER PLANNING AND PREPARATION

Our message to the public:

**Don't wait until a hurricane enters the Gulf,
prepare in advance!. Know what emergency plans are
being created and how you will evacuate.**

**Emergency planning for your pets requires supplies
and advance preparation.**



Evacuation Checklist

- **Food and water:**
 - Keep food and water in an airtight, waterproof container with up to 3 days' worth.
- **Medicine and medical records.**
 - Keep an extra supply of your pet's medicine and immunization records on hand.
- **Collar with ID tag, harness or leash.**
 - Your pet should wear a collar with its rabies tag and identification at all times. Include a backup leash, collar and ID tag.
- **Documents.**
 - Place copies of your pet's registration information, adoption papers, vaccination documents and medical records in a clear plastic bag or waterproof container.
- **Crate or other pet carrier.**
 - Get a portable, secure and covered pet carrier in advance. Carrier should be large enough so that your pet can completely turn around, and lie down. Mark your contact information on the crate/carrier .
- **Sanitation.**
 - Include pet litter, newspapers, towels, plastic trash bags and household chlorine bleach. Do not use scented or color safe bleaches, or those with added cleaners. Use 16 drops of regular bleach per gallon of water.

💛 Website: louisianasPCA.org/pet-care/disaster-preparedness

📘 Facebook: facebook.com/thelaspca

📷 Instagram: instagram.com/laspca

