

RUSVM Hurricane Preparedness Plan: Personal Pet Welfare

It is essential that all pet owners consider their pets when preparing for a hurricane. All owners should have in their possession and have easy access to:

- A sturdy, working crate or comparable container for their pet which is appropriate for their size.
- Minimum of three days of food.
- Food and water bowls.
- Clean bedding.
- Collar and leash.
- Vaccination and other associated travel documentation.
- Medication and any other items unique to the pet with explicit instructions.

In the immediate aftermath of a hurricane pet owners should make every attempt to house their pet at their current residence. If that residence is unsafe then the assistance of friends and colleagues should be sought to house the pet elsewhere.

In extreme circumstances RUSVM will attempt to house Ross community pets but only when no alternative is available. After a storm the Hurricane Committee will assess campus to determine if there are spaces available that can be safely used to accommodate pets.

Depending on the degree of damage to buildings and utility supplies there will be limitations on the numbers of pets that can be housed on campus. The welfare and husbandry of these animals will remain the responsibility of the owners themselves. Delegation of these responsibilities within small groups of pet owners is highly recommended. Any individual bringing their pet to campus must have the minimum requirements listed above. Aggressive dogs will not be permitted to stay on campus.

Pets must be contained within crates when housed on campus except when crates are cleaned or when dogs are walked. Pets must remain in their crates between 10pm and 6am and dogs will be allowed 2 walks per day. Whenever pets are outside of their crates they must be on a secure leash. Pet owners must recognize that in the event of large numbers of animals being housed on campus exercise will be limited and owners must accept direction from Hurricane Committee members on how they are managed. For these reasons housing pets on campus must be considered as a last resort.

Housing pets on campus beyond a few days will become challenging. In the case of evacuation efforts will be made to evacuate pets with their owners however this cannot be guaranteed. Again it is highly recommended that if small groups of pets can be housed off campus and managed by a small number of acquaintances this would be the better solution.