



The CERT Monthly

Grand Island-Hall County
Community Emergency Response Team

December 2009

Upcoming Events:

CERT Monthly Training:

- Dec 1, 7pm
Humane Society

HAM Radio Testing

- Dec 10, 7pm-10pm
Adams Co. EMA
1313 N. Hastings
Ave.

Online at:
cert.gihams.org

Inside this issue:

Are Your Pets Ready?	1
Pet Statistics and Resources	1
Planning for Your Pet	2
Emergency Pet Supplies	3
Upcoming Training	4
Did You Know?	4



Are Your Pets Ready?

Disasters can affect not only people, but their pets, service animals and livestock.

To prepare your animals simply apply the same planning questions and scenarios to them as you have for your family, coworkers, and business.

Some common tasks necessary in your pet preparedness include:

- Food & Water
- Identification and Proof of Ownership
- Medications and Vaccination Records
- Evacuation & Transporting your animals
- Sheltering Your Pet



Just as your family needs an emergency supplies kit, your pets need an assembly of items prepared for their needs. Place this near your family kit and ensure that all supplies are rotated and refreshed as necessary.

Remember, evacuations often last longer than origi-

nally anticipated. Many who leave their pets behind for "a quick evacuation" are delayed in returning. Some pets were left to fend for themselves, die, or must be rescued.

Be prepared to take your pet. Remember, they are part of the family, too.

Pet Statistics & Resources

Pets and animals play a large part in American lives. According to the US Humane Society:

- There are 74.8 million dogs owned in the US.
- Thirty-nine percent of U.S. households own at least one dog.

- There are 88.3 million owned cats in the US.
- Nearly 34 percent of U.S. households own at least one cat

You can find help and information to prepare your pets by contacting:

- Local Humane Society 385-5305
- US. Humane Society at www.humanesociety.org
- American Veterinary Medical Association
- Local emergency manager.

Planning for Your Animals

There are a number of aspects to your pet preparedness to remember. No plan is complete until it is tested.

Disaster Supplies

Assemble a disaster kit of supplies that you will use for evacuations. Make sure they meet all your animal's needs. The kit should be easily portable.

Include basic needs like food, water, transportation and housing containment, vet records and proof of ownership. Also, remember the specific handling equipment for your animal, like leashes, cages, etc.

Even the most friendly animal can react unpredictably to others in the stressful environment of a disaster. Include protection measures like muzzles, even if such tools are not normally used at home.

Identification

Your animal should be properly identified through collar tags, micro chips, brands, or other means appropriate for that animal. Reptiles, for instance, can be marked by a permanent marker.

Ensure that identification can accurately locate you through your name, address, phone number or even email.

Transportation/Housing

Ensure that you have a container that is appropriate to



transport and/or house your animal. Collapsible cages or storage containers are particularly helpful and store well.

Familiarize your animals with your containers to ease the process of transportation and housing. Carriers should be able to hold the animal, bowls and (for cats) a litter pan. Carriers should allow room for the animal to stand and turn around.

For large animals like equine and livestock, make plans for appropriate transportation and housing in and around your community. This may include fair grounds, race tracks, pastures, stables, or corrals.

Records

Ensure you have the following records:

- Veterinary records, including current vet.
- Medical history
- Proof of Ownership

Your pet records should also include recent photographs

linking you with that animal.

Evacuation

Most evacuations may only be for a limited amount of time. However, in many unfortunate instances, families could not return for many days or weeks. Animals were left to fend for themselves.

Always be prepared to evacuate your animal with you upon any order. This will help you ensure that your entire family is well cared for and accounted for.

Arrange for a pre-determined evacuation site, preferably some few hours away from your home. This will help ensure you have not evacuated to an area also affected by your disaster. When determining your evacuation site, take your animal's needs into consideration.

The decision to leave livestock or horses behind should always consider the risks and benefits to do so.

Pet Preparedness Topics:

1. *Supplies*
2. *Identification*
3. *Containers for Transportation and Housing*
4. *Vital Records*
5. *Evacuation*



Emergency Pet Supplies

Your pets need emergency supplies as well. Below is a list of some suggested items that you may consider in your pet's emergency kit. The list is only the beginning. Remember your pet's specific needs and habits. For more information regarding this list, contact the American Veterinarian Medical Association.

Type of Animal	Preparedness Kit Supplies		
Household Pet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Weeks Food & Water • Cage/Carrier • Can Opener • Dishes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vet records • Proof of Ownership • Familiar items, toys • Trash bags 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leash & Muzzle • Litter, pan, scoop • Newspaper (bedding) • Animal First Aid Kit
Livestock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7-10 days of feed & water • Vet records • Proof of Ownership • Cotton halter • Duct tape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heavy gloves • Nose leads • Plastic trash cans/lids • Portable livestock panels • Rope or lariat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medications • Shovel • Water buckets • Whips/prods • Wire cutters
Equine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7-10 days of feed & water • Vet records • Proof of Ownership • Cotton halter • Knife, nippers, pick, rasp 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bandana blindfolds • Blankets • Duct tape • Grooming brushes • Twitch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medications • Let wraps & leg quilts • Shovel • Water buckets • Wire Cutters
Birds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 weeks food & water • Medications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perch • Toys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small, secure, covered carrier
Reptiles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small transport carrier • Water bowl 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dietary supplements • Appropriate gloves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heating pad
Amphibians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moistened towels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plastic containers w/ holes in lid to transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water-tight plastic bags
Other Small Animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7-10 days of feed & water • Secure transport carrier 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extra bedding materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate exercise equipment.

Source: American Veterinarian Medical Association



Grand Island—Hall County Emergency Management

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beready@grand-island.com

www.grand-island.com/ready

Training Opportunities

CERT Continuous Training

Regular CERT training meetings are scheduled the 1st Tuesday of every month, 7pm.

- Animals in a Disaster – Dec 1, 7pm, Humane Society

Other Training Opportunities

Night w/ EMS – St. Francis Memorial, 2116 West Faidley Avenue. Second Mondays, 7pm.
Free admission, no registration needed. www.nemsa.org.

Ag-Terror Training – January 21, 8am-5pm, Grand Island City Hall. Contact Jon Rosenlund to register.

Red Cross Training – Contact Renae Foster at 382-3790 or Renae@giredcross.org.
All Red Cross Training above is located at 404 E. Third St. in Grand Island.

Ham Radio Testing Day: December 10, 7pm-10pm
Adams County Emerg. Mgt. 1313 Hastings Ave, Hastings, NE
Cost: \$15. Contact Dan Garrett, wy0o@arrrl.net

More training opportunities and activities are found on the CERT online calendar
<http://cert.gihams.org>.

Contact Jennifer Green for information regarding Training Opportunities

CERT Email Group

If you send an email to: gicert@googlegroups.com you will effectively be emailing everyone in our CERT membership. It's a way to share information via email with the entire group, without having to know everyone's email address. Feel free to bring up topics of interest to the group, ask questions, or share information that might be of interest to the other CERT members.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email Roger Hammond directly at: rahammond@charter.net

Did You Know?

Snakes and other reptiles can often be transported in a cloth sack, pillow case or other similar fabric bag. Therefore, be aware and cautious of hissing pillow cases.