



LOUISIANA STATE ANIMAL RESPONSE TEAM
8550 One United Plaza, Suite 1001•Baton Rouge•LA•70809

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTACT:

Becky Adcock, DVM, MBA
Louisiana State Animal Response Team
225-931-9631
Lsartpio@gmail.com
www.lsart.org

Evacuation Message for Pet Owners Issued

Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Oct. 29, 2009 – A State of Emergency has been issued in your region. Evacuation may be required. The Louisiana State Animal Response Team urges you to prepare an emergency plan that includes your pets. Officials offer the following recommendations.

Don't leave pets at home! You don't know when you will be allowed to return, and the safest place for your pet is with you. Don't rely on state-operated pet evacuation shelters. Space in pet evacuation shelters is limited, and owners who place their pets in evacuation shelters will be required to care for their pets. Pet shelters should be a last resort for self evacuators -They are often dusty, non-air-conditioned, and noisy. Pets are members of the family and should be included in your evacuation plan

Prepare an evacuation plan that includes a pre-determined route and destination for your family (including your pets) in the event of an emergency warning or mandatory evacuation in your area.

Prepare an evacuation kit for your pet. Include food, water, medical records, and a safe kennel for travel; Make sure your pet is identified with a collar and tags, and a microchip or permanent tattoo.

Lastly, stay informed. An easy way to keep updated on a developing emergency situation, to learn valuable information about how to plan for a disaster, and to participate in community emergency preparedness, is to go to the Louisiana State Animal Response Team website, www.LSART.org.

Louisiana State Animal Response Team (LSART) is an organization of groups and individuals with an interest in animal well-being related to emergencies or disasters. This includes governmental agencies, veterinarians, animal control officers, humane organizations, and citizen volunteers. LSART works as a volunteer partner at the state and parish level in Louisiana's emergency planning structure.

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