

# Beyond the Basics: Emergency Evacuation Planning & Exercise for the Multiple Dog Owner

---

Presented by:

Laura Blanton

Practical Animal Welfare Solutions

Flowery Branch, Georgia

770.597.3399

[LauraMBlanton@gmail.com](mailto:LauraMBlanton@gmail.com)

# Overview

- Cycle of Emergency Management
- Definitions
- Types of Emergencies and Disasters affecting the Metro Atlanta area
- Travel with Dogs
- Back Up Identification
- Creating a Disaster Plan for Multiple Animals
- Go Kits
- Exercising the Plan
- Resources



# About Laura Blanton

- BA in Emergency & Disaster Management; currently a graduate student in Emergency & Disaster Management and Organizational Management
- Multiple FEMA courses in emergency management including ICS 100, 200, 300, 400, 700, 800; HSEEP; and Animals in Disaster
- Field Supervisor for the Animal Protection Section of the Georgia Department of Agriculture and member of the GDA's All-Hazard Team
- Recent speaking engagements include the 2010 Animal Law Conference hosted by the Animal Law Section of the State Bar of Georgia, 2010 Chatham County Hurricane Conference, Gwinnett Technical College, the University of Georgia, Georgia Animal Control Academy, Sawnee Mountain Kennel Club, and Atlanta Kennel Club
- A Safety Officer for the 2010 USEA American Eventing Championships
- Assists animal owners and animal related businesses with disaster planning and emergency exercises
- Owner/Handler of Cardigan Welsh Corgis and member of the Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of America since 1999
- Veterinary Technician with a Non-Governmental Organization in Slidell, La after Hurricane Katrina

# Reason to Prepare

“All-hazards preparedness focuses on preventing likely and common effects from any type of disaster, and on reducing the likely consequences resulting from these effects.”

Sebastian Heath, VetMB, Ph.D., DACVIM



# Cycle of Emergency Management



# Definitions

- **Mitigation** is the measures that prevent or reduce the impact of a disaster on dogs and their owners.
- **Preparedness** is the planning, training, and education for issues that dogs owners may not be able to mitigate such as natural and man made disasters.
- **Response** is the immediate aftermath of a disaster, when life is not as usual and dogs and their owners may be displaced.
- **Recovery** is the long-term aftermath of a disaster, when restoration efforts are in addition to everyday life.



# Mitigation

- Survey your home, kennel, vehicles, and property to determine what hazards may potentially impact you and your dogs.
- When hazards are located, take steps to lessen the impact of those hazards.
  - Remove or trim large trees surrounding kennels
  - Acquire generators to supply power during outages
  - Perform regular maintenance on animal housing areas and vehicles to ensure safety
  - Obtain sufficient temporary housing for all animals

# Preparedness

- For those issues that cannot be mitigated, proper and thorough planning is essential for dog owners.
  - Secure mutual aid agreements with fanciers and kennels living in other counties and states.
  - Keep copies of important documents (Registration, Puppy Buyer Agreements, Stud Agreements, Co-Ownership Agreements, Bitch Lease Agreements, Photographs, etc.) on a jump drive and CD.
  - Map and print multiple evacuation routes from your home.
  - Carry current paper maps in vehicle at all times.
  - Prepare evacuation kits with all needed dog supplies for 7 days.
  - Photograph and print pictures of yourself with each and every dog twice a year when clocks are reset during Daylight Saving Time.
  - ALWAYS travel with a card in purse or wallet listing emergency contact information of a family member or friend that can retrieve and transport your dogs in case you are incapacitated during travel.



# Response

- The time directly after an emergency or disaster is the when dogs and owners are most vulnerable. Planning and preparation will help eliminate some of the issues associated with displacement.
  - Having enough food and water readily accessible to provide adequate nutrition and hydration to your dogs for a full seven days.
  - Procuring adequate medical supplies to provide for the health and well being of your dogs.
  - Retaining appropriate temporary shelter to ensure protection from the elements and other animals.

# Recovery

- During this time, dog owners can rebuild damaged or destroyed structures with a focus on preventing likely occurrences in the future.
  - Kennel buildings constructed in flood prone areas could be built on stilts or higher ground.
  - Vehicles can be outfitted with more secure enclosures to better withstand the force of a crash.
  - Trees utilized for shade can be better selected for those with deeper roots.
  - Fire breaks can be constructed on larger properties to help prevent wildfire damage.



# Disasters



# Metro Atlanta Hazards

- Natural Hazards
  - Tornadoes and Thunderstorms
  - Stalled Hurricanes and Tropical Systems
  - Floods, Flash Floods, and Dam Failure
  - Heat waves and Drought,
  - Earthquakes,
  - Snow and Ice Storms
  - Wildfires
  - Windstorms
  - Animal Disease and Pandemic Outbreaks
  - Sinkholes and Landslides
- Man Made Hazards
  - Chemical Spills/HazMat
  - Terrorism
  - Industrial Accidents
  - Airplane Crashes
  - Train Derailment
  - Interstate Accidents
  - Brown Outs, Blackouts, and Electrical Supply Failures
  - Hoarders
  - Overwhelmed Breeders
  - Overwhelmed Animal Shelters
  - Veterinary or Boarding Kennel Emergency



# Motor Home Accident, Abbeyville, SC



Motor Home Photographs by Ken Ruinard



# Loose Dog After Accident





# Lucky Dog, Lucky Owner



# Traveling with Your Dogs

- Anytime you are traveling with your dogs, you should ALWAYS have the following information in your purse or wallet and fixed to every enclosure:
  - Planned route that another person is aware of (for out-of-area travel),
  - Contact information for a person who can assist your dogs in an emergency (Name, Address, Phone Number),
  - Picture of dog with important information such as name, age, vaccination history, allergies, and needed medications
  - Personal Veterinarian's contact information



# Travel Cage Card Example



- **MY NAME IS FLARE**

I am a 10 year old female Cardigan Welsh Corgi, fully vaccinated and taking no medication. If we are in an accident and my owner, Laura Blanton, is unresponsive, please contact Scott Blanton at 404-555-1234 and he will come get me immediately. My Veterinarian is Dr. Tony Watson at 770-555-1234.

# Wallet Information

Inside your wallet or in your purse should be information placed on paper or a business card where an emergency responder can easily access it containing the following information:

- Your full name
- Any relevant medical information
- List of allergies
- Emergency contact with current phone numbers
- Information about dogs traveling with you and who can be contacted in the event of an emergency or accident.



# Prior to Travel

- Prior to travel, locate Veterinary and Emergency Veterinary Clinic along your route in case of emergency during travel.
- Locate boarding kennels and friends along your route in case of vehicle failure, accident, or emergency.
- Make sure at least one responsible family member or friend knows your route, departure and arrival times, and destination and calls to ensure you have arrived when and where scheduled.

# Microchip Not A Guarantee

Assuming that all animals will be scanned for a microchip is a mistake! Georgia has 159 counties and over 60 of those counties have no animal control. When traveling, dogs should at least have a break away collar listing a name and contact phone number. When you travel from the metro Atlanta area to shows in North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Alabama, and Tennessee, you will travel through cities and counties that do not have microchip scanners, no animal shelters, and no animal control.



# Creating a Disaster & Emergency Plan

Making the decision to create a plan is important, but just as important is actually doing it and then exercising the plan on a practice run.

# Local Questions to Ask

- You should be familiar with warning methods in your area for slow moving and rapid threats. Examples include sirens and the emergency alert system on television and radio.
- Are the warning methods different or the same for different threats? For example, will a tornado siren be sounded for a flash flood event?
- Are different plans needed for different disasters and emergencies? YES! You need to know what to do if you are to shelter in place or to evacuate from the area.



# CARDIGANS Guide

- C - conduct a vulnerability assessment
- A - analyze local hazards
- R - request information from local EMA
- D - determine ways to prevent loss
- I - identify, locate, & acquire needed resources
- G - generate emergency contact lists
- A - assemble “Go Kits”
- N - negotiate mutual aid with family and friends
- S - SHARE YOUR PLAN WITH OTHERS!

# Comprehensive Plan Development

- How many animals need to be provided for in plan?
- Do I have safe and adequate portable enclosures for all my animals?
- Do I have safe and adequate transportation to move all of my animals within four hours?
- Do I have a trusted friend or family member that could move my animals if I am unable?
- Does this person have access to my home, kennel, supplies, and transportation?
- Have I revised and re-established these agreements every six months?
- Do I have a five day supply of medication, food, water, and supplies to be totally self-sufficient?
- Have I sent digital copies of all my photos and needed documents to a trusted friend or family member located in another region of the country in the last six months?
- Have I secured a safe place to house or board my animals for at least four weeks if needed? Please keep in mind the current economic situation, emergencies and disasters that could affect where you are going, and if your emergency housing situation will be able to safely sustain your animals for an extended period of time.



# Go Kit

- Crate with your name, address and phone number clearly marked
- Emergency contact info
- Leashes and harnesses or collars
- Muzzle if animal has behavioral concerns
- Food and water bowls
- Food and water for 5 days in plastic containers with feeding instructions
- NOAA Weather Radio, flash light, batteries, chargers
- Toys and chewing materials
- Club member contact list and club member emergency point of contact
- Medication, health records and directions for medication schedule
- Veterinarians name, number and address
- Grooming supplies, newspaper, paper towels, baby wipes, plastic trash bags, manual can opener, spoon and household bleach (keep separate)
- Photo with you and each dog and all contract information
- Towels, tarps, bungee cords, and pop up tents
- Generators, power cords, and fuel
- First Aid Kit

# False Sense of Security

- Just having a plan is not enough!
- Is your plan practical?
- What holes will your plan reveal when you put it into action?
- Do I have the resources I thought I had when writing the plan?
- How much additional help will I need to execute my plan?
- How much will I rely on my local government?
- How much will I rely on local fanciers?



# Exercising the Plan

- You will not know all the answers to your questions until you put your plan into action!
- Schedule a full scale plan exercise, complete with moving all of your animals and setting up in another location, within the next four months. A good time to do this is when already planning on attending a dog show.
- Put yourself on a timer and assume Wal-Mart, PetsMart, Kroger, and all other stores are closed.
- You must have all of your animals, supplies, and necessities ready to deploy in less than four hours! Can you do it?

# Other Reasons for Planning and Exercise

- The fancy IS the responsible example!
- Animal rights groups looking at ways to limit numbers; don't give them ammunition.
- Your animals depend on you.
- Planning leads to a coordinated emergency response.
- It is the right thing to do because it can help save the lives of you, your dogs, your family, your friends, and all those you meet in the dog community.



# Additional Resources

- Free Online Classes are found at FEMA's Emergency Management Institute Independent Study Program  
<http://training.fema.gov/is/crslist.asp>
- AVMA Disaster Preparedness Information  
<http://www.avma.org/disaster/>
- National Weather Service  
<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/>
- Georgia Department of Agriculture  
<http://agr.georgia.gov/portal/site/AGR/>
- GEMA  
<http://www.gema.state.ga.us/>

# Questions?





# Contact Information

If you would like Laura Blanton to speak to your club or group, please use the contact information below. She is available for one hour, two hour, half day, and full day presentations and workshops on disaster preparedness with companion animals, including equine, throughout the United States. Full day workshops will ensure participants leave with a completed disaster plan for their animals.

Laura Blanton  
Practical Animal Welfare Solutions  
LauraMBlanton@gmail.com  
770.597.3399