Taking Care of Pets During Natural Disasters

HE WOULDN’T LEAVE YOU. PLEASE DON’T LEAVE HIM.

MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR YOUR ANIMALS’ CARE BEFORE A NATURAL DISASTER OCCURS—DON’T WAIT

PETA

Science
Grade 5
With Answer Key
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Objectives

- Students will learn how to take care of pets during natural disasters or emergencies. (Science)
- Students will demonstrate appropriate character behaviors (i.e. kindness, honesty, fairness, integrity, responsibility) when taking care of pets. (Social Studies)
- Students will write essay describing how they can protect pets before a disaster strikes. (Language Arts)

Science Benchmarks

SC.5.E.7.7 Design a family preparedness plan for natural disasters and identify the reasons for having such a plan.

Writing Benchmarks Grade 5

LAFS.5.W.1.2 Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

LAFS.5.W.1.3 Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

LAFS.5.W.2.4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
Background Information for Taking Care of Pets During Natural Disaster

In the Grade 5 Science curriculum, one of the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS) addresses the need to have a family preparation plan for natural disaster. However, when disaster strikes, the same rules that apply to people also apply to pets: Preparation makes all the difference, and if it's not safe for you, it's not safe for them.

Today more than ever, teachers and other educators are looked upon to help shape not only good students but also good citizens. Character building is a key component of good citizenship. Major character concepts such as—kindness, citizenship, fairness, respect, responsibility, and integrity— can be reinforced while teaching responsible care and treatment of animals. What better way of teaching students the fundamentals of good character than with one of their all-time favorite topics: animals! When it comes to teaching core skills and core values, humane-themed lessons can capture a child’s attention, imagination, and heart in ways that other subject matter may not.

Before a natural disaster strikes, parents and kids should understand the need to develop a plan to take care of their pets. The Humane Society has developed a to-do-list for protecting pets during a disaster. This document is based on their plans. (http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/animal_rescue/tips/pets-disaster.html).

To-Do-List for Protecting Pets During a Disaster

Step 1 Prepare

 a) Get Identification for your pet:
 Make sure that your cat or dog is wearing a collar and identification that is up to date and visible at all times. The tag should also include your cellular phone number. Most veterinary doctors will implant a microchip on your cat or dog just under the skin usually right between the shoulder blades with information about your pet. A microchip is a tiny electronic device about the size of a grain of rice, which uses radio frequency waves to transmit information about your pet.

 b) Put together your pet emergency survival kit:
 Every member of your family should know what he or she needs to take when you evacuate. You'll also need supplies for your pet. Stock up on non-perishables well ahead of time, and have everything ready to go at a moment's notice. Keep everything accessible and stored in sturdy containers (duffel bags, covered trash containers, etc.) that can be carried easily. Any dry pet food should be stored in air-tight containers and refreshed every 6 months. A basic disaster kit may include the following:
  • Food and water for at least five days for each pet, bowls and a manual can opener if you are packing canned pet food. People need at least one gallon of water per person per day. While your pet may not need that much, keep an extra gallon on hand if your pet has been exposed to chemicals or flood waters and needs to be rinsed.
• Medications and medical records stored in a waterproof container and a first aid kit. A pet first aid book is also a good idea.
• Cat litter box, litter, litter scoop, garbage bags to collect all pets’ waste.
• Sturdy leashes, harnesses, and carriers to transport pets safely and to ensure that your pets can’t escape. Carriers should be large enough to allow your pet to stand comfortably, turn around, and lie down. (Your pet may have to stay in the carrier for hours at a time.) Be sure to have a secure cage with no loose objects inside it to accommodate smaller pets—who may also need blankets or towels for bedding and warmth as well as special items, depending on their species.
• Current photos of you with your pets and descriptions of your pets to help others identify them in case you and your pets become separated—and to prove that they are yours once you're reunited.
• Pet beds and toys should be included if easily packed to reduce pet’s stress.
• Written information about your pets’ feeding schedules, medical conditions, and behavior issues along with the name and number of your veterinarian in case you have to board your pets or place them in foster care.
• Other useful items include newspapers, paper towels, plastic trash bags, grooming items, and household bleach.

Step 2 Plan

a) Find a safe place to stay ahead of time

Some communities have groups that have solely focused on providing emergency sheltering for pets, and other communities simply don’t have the resources. That’s why you should never assume that you will be allowed to bring your pet to an emergency shelter.

b) Before disaster hits call your local office of emergency management

Find out if you will be allowed to evacuate with your pets and that there will be shelters that take people and their pets in your area. And just to be safe, track down a pet-friendly safe place for your family and pets.

c) Find a pet-friendly shelter

• Contact hotels and motels outside your immediate area to find out if they accept pets. Ask about any restrictions on number, size, and species. Inquire if the "no pet" policies would be waived in an emergency. Keep a list of animal-friendly places handy, and call ahead for a reservation as soon as you think you might have to leave your home. Here’s an online resource for pet-friendly hotels:

• Make arrangements with friends or relatives. Ask people outside the immediate area if they would be able to shelter you and your pets—or just your pets—if necessary. If you have more than one pet, you may need to arrange to house them at separate locations.
• Consider a kennel or veterinarian's office. Make a list of boarding facilities and veterinary offices that might be able to shelter animals in disaster emergencies (include their 24-hour telephone numbers).

• As a last resort, ask your local animal shelter. Some shelters may be able to provide foster care or shelter for pets in an emergency. But shelters have limited resources and are likely to be stretched to their limits during an emergency.

d) If you evacuate, take your pet

• Rule number one: If it isn't safe for you, it isn't safe for your pets. Even if you think you will only be gone for a few hours, take your pets. You have no way of knowing how long you'll be kept out of the area, and you may not be able—or allowed—to go back for your pets. Pets left behind in a disaster can easily be injured, lost, or killed. Those left inside your home can escape through storm-damaged areas, such as broken windows. And pets turned loose to fend for themselves are likely to become victims of exposure, starvation, predators, contaminated food or water, or accidents. Leaving dogs tied or chained outside in a disaster is a death sentence.

• Rule number two: Evacuate early. Don't wait for a mandatory evacuation order. The smell of smoke, high winds or lightening may make your pet more fearful and difficult to load into a crate or carrier. Evacuating before conditions become severe will keep everyone safer and make the process less stressful. Some people who have waited to be evacuated by emergency officials have been told to leave their pets behind.

e) If you stay home, do it safely

If your family and pets must wait out a storm or other disaster at home, identify a safe area of your home where you can all stay together. Make that safe area animal friendly:

• Move dangerous items such as tools or toxic products that have been stored in the area.
• Be sure to close your windows and doors, stay inside, and follow the instructions from your local emergency management office.
• Bring your pets indoors as soon as local authorities say trouble is on the way. Keep pets under your direct control; if you have to evacuate, you will not have to spend time trying to find them. Keep dogs on leashes and cats in carriers, and make sure they are wearing identification.
• If you have a room you can designate as a "safe room," put your emergency supplies in that room in advance, including your pet's crate and supplies. Have any medications and a supply of pet food and water inside watertight containers, along with your other emergency supplies. If there is an open fireplace, vent, pet door, or similar opening in the house, close it off with plastic sheeting and strong tape.
• Listen to the radio periodically, and don't come out until you know it's safe.
Step 3: Stay Informed even after the disaster
Your home may be a very different place after the emergency is over, and it may be hard for your pets to adjust.

a) Keep your pets safe.
- **Don’t allow your pets to roam loose.** Familiar landmarks and smells might be gone, and your pet will probably be disoriented. Pets can easily get lost in such situations. While you assess the damage, keep dogs on leashes and cats in carriers inside the house. If your house is damaged, your pets could escape.
- **Be patient with your pets after a disaster.** Try to get them back into their normal routines as soon as possible. Be ready for behavioral problems caused by the stress of the situation. If these problems persist, or if your pet seems to be having any health problems, talk to your veterinarian.
- **If your community has been flooded, search your home and yard for wild animals who may have sought refuge there.** Stressed wildlife can pose a threat to you and your pet.

b) Be ready for everyday emergencies.
Here are basic guidelines for summer safety.

- **Watch for a Heat wave.** High temperatures don’t just make your pets uncomfortable. They can be dangerous.
- **Never leave your pets in a parked car.** Not even for a minute. Not even with the car running and air conditioner on.
- **Watch the humidity.** Dr. Barry Kellogg, VMD, of the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association says, “Animals pant to evaporate moisture from their lungs, which takes heat away from their body. If the humidity is too high, they are unable to cool themselves, and their temperature will skyrocket to dangerous levels—very quickly.”
- **Don’t rely on a fan.** They don’t cool off pets as effectively as they do people.
- **Provide lots of shade and water.** Any time your pet is outside, make sure he or she has protection from heat and sun and plenty of fresh, cold water. A doghouse does not provide relief from heat—in fact, it makes it worse.
- **Limit exercise on hot days** to early morning or evening hours, and be especially careful with pets with white-colored ears, who are more susceptible to skin cancer, and short-nosed pets who, because of their short noses, typically have difficulty breathing. Asphalt gets very hot and can burn your pet’s paws, so walk your dog on the grass if possible.
- **Look for signs of heatstroke**, including heavy panting, glazed eyes, a rapid heartbeat, difficulty breathing, excessive thirst, lethargy, fever, dizziness, lack of coordination, profuse salivation, vomiting, a deep red or purple tongue, seizure, and unconsciousness.
- **Treat suspected heatstroke immediately.** Move your pet into the shade or an air-conditioned area. Apply ice packs or cold towels to her head, neck, and chest or run cool (not cold) water over her. Let her drink small amounts of cool water or lick ice cubes. Take her directly to a veterinarian.
Pet Care During a Disaster Writing Activity

Name: ___________________________ Grade: _____ Date: ________

1. I can care for a dog during a natural disaster by:
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

2. I can care for a cat during a natural disaster by:
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

3. I can care for a bird during a natural disaster by:
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
True/False

Taking Care of Pets During a Disaster

Name: _______________________________________ Grade: _____ Date: ________

True or False: Place true or false in the first blank space and write page number and section where evidence was found.

1. Be patient with your pets after a natural disaster.__________ page number and section_____________________________________________

2. It is okay to leave your pet in a closed parked car.__________ page number and section_____________________________________________

3. If you think you will be evacuating your house during a disaster for only a few hours, it is okay to leave your pet at home.__________ page number and section_____________________________________________

4. It is a good idea not to evacuate early, but to wait for mandatory evacuation order.__________ page number and section_____________________________________________

5. In addition to a pet tag, it is also a good idea that your veterinary implant a microchip on your pet.__________ page number and section_____________________________________________

6. Heatstroke only affect humans, not pets.__________ page number and section_____________________________________________

7. Include in a disaster kit, current photos of you with your pets and descriptions of your pets.__________ page number and section_____________________________________________

8. Even if you can easily bring your pet’s bed and toys, they should not be part of your disaster kit.__________ page number and section_____________________________________________

9. Before a disaster occurs, it is a good idea to find out if shelters accept pets.__________ page number and section_____________________________________________

10. Everyone, including children, should be familiar with emergency plans.__________ page number and section_____________________________________________
True or False: Place true or false in the first blank space and write page number and section where evidence was found.

1. Be patient with your pets after a natural disaster. True. Page number and section: p. 5 Keep your pets safe.

2. It is okay to leave your pet in a closed parked car. False. Page number and section: p.5 Be ready for everyday emergencies

3. If you think you will be evacuating your house during a disaster for only a few hours, it is okay to leave your pet at home. False. Page number and section: p. 4 If you evacuate, take your pet (Rule No.1)

4. It is a good idea **not** to evacuate early, but to wait for mandatory evacuation order. False. Page number and section: p. 4 If you evacuate, take your pet (Rule No. 2)

5. In addition to a pet tag, it is also a good idea that your veterinary implant a microchip on your pet. True. Page number and section: p. 2 Get Identification for your pet

6. Heatstroke only affect humans, not pets. False. Page number and section: p. 5 Be ready for everyday emergencies (Look for signs of heatstroke)

7. Include in a disaster kit, current photos of you with your pets and descriptions of your pets. True. Page number and section: p. 2 Put together your pet emergency survival kit

8. Packing your pet’s bed and toys, **should not** be part of your survival kit. False. Page number and section: p. 2 Put together your pet emergency survival kit

9. Before a disaster occurs, it is a good idea to find out if shelters accept pets. True. Page number and section: p. 3 Find a safe place to stay ahead of time

10. Everyone, including children, should be familiar with emergency plans. True. Page number and section: p. 2 Background Information for Taking Care of Pets During Natural Disaster.
Assignment: Write a scientific explanation that answers this question: How can pets be protected during natural disasters?

Claim: (Write a sentence that states how pets can be protected during natural disasters.)

Evidence: (Provide data about the conditions including quantitative data to support your claim about how pets can be protected before, during and after natural disasters.)

Reasoning: (Write a statement that connects your evidence to your claim about how pets can be protected during natural disasters.)
## Anti-Discrimination Policy

### Federal and State Laws

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida adheres to a policy of nondiscrimination in employment and educational programs/activities and strives affirmatively to provide equal opportunity for all as required by:

**Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964** · prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, or national origin.

**Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended** · prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, or national origin.

**Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972** · prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender.

**Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 (ADEA) as amended** · prohibits discrimination on the basis of age with respect to individuals who are at least 40.

**The Equal Pay Act of 1963 as amended** · prohibits gender discrimination in payment of wages to women and men performing substantially equal work in the same establishment.

**Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973** · prohibits discrimination against the disabled.

**Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA)** · prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in employment, public service, public accommodations and telecommunications.

**The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA)** · requires covered employers to provide up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave to "eligible" employees for certain family and medical reasons.

**The Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978** · prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions.

**Florida Educational Equity Act (FEEA)** · prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, gender, national origin, marital status, or handicap against a student or employee.

**Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992** · secures for all individuals within the state freedom from discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap, or marital status.

**Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA)** · prohibits discrimination against employees or applicants because of genetic information.

**Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act of 2002** – no public school shall deny equal access to, or a fair opportunity for groups to meet on school premises or in school facilities before or after school hours, or discriminate against any group officially affiliated with Boy Scouts of America or any other youth or community group listed in Title 36 (as a patriotic society).

**Veterans** are provided re-employment rights in accordance with P.L. 93-508 (Federal Law) and Section 295.07 (Florida Statutes), which stipulate categorical preferences for employment.

### In Addition:

**School Board Policies 1362, 3362, 4362, and 5517** · Prohibit harassment and/or discrimination against students, employees, or applicants on the basis of sex, race, color, ethnic or national origin, religion, marital status, disability, genetic information, age, political beliefs, sexual orientation, gender, gender identification, social and family background, linguistic preference, pregnancy, and any other legally prohibited basis. Retaliation for engaging in a protected activity is also prohibited.

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