

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS FOR PETS



Who are we? MV DART works with towns to take care of our pets in a disaster shelter. On Martha's Vineyard, the most likely events requiring evacuation and shelter include coastal flooding, extensive wind damage, or prolonged loss of power in extreme temperatures. This guide is geared to help you to prepare your pet to **shelter at home** under adverse conditions or to **evacuate to an emergency shelter**, should that become necessary.

If you evacuate, take your pets: *If you leave, even if you think you're only going to be gone for a few hours, take your pets. Once you leave, you will have no idea how long you'll be kept out of the area and you may not be able to get back to get your pet(s).*

About the MV DART Emergency Shelter: Emergency shelters on MV are for **companion animals only**: if your animal lives in your home with you, and can tolerate being confined in a crate, we will be happy to provide shelter, whether it be a cat, pig, dog, goat or guinea pig.

The Emergency Shelter on MV will be a **co-shelter** operation: this means the owner will stay at the shelter take care of his/her animal(s). *We are not able to provide boarding services for your pets!* If you are staying at the shelter but are physically unable to take care of your pets, we will take care of them. If stray, lost or otherwise ownerless pets are found, we will take them in and care for them until the owner or foster housing can be found.

Shelter Announcements: In the event of an emergency, public announcements will be made through the internet www.dukescounty.org, radio or MV-TV. Martha's Vineyard has an emergency notification system called **CodeRED**, that will automatically call you with important



announcements. If you are just visiting the Vineyard, you can sign up for [Ping4](#), a Massachusetts emergency notification app that alerts you to any local emergency at any location your mobile phone happens to be in.



If you take time to prepare yourself and your pets, you will likely encounter less difficulty and stress, and possibly spare yourself heartbreak. Take the time now to get yourself and your family ready, including your pets!

Pet Emergency Supply Kit:

- **Collar with ID Tag and leashes:** Your pet should wear a collar with up-to-date identification tags attached at all times. Include at least one back-up leash in your pet emergency kit: a slip-leash that can double as a collar is best. *No retractable leashes, please: they are dangerous and inadequate to control your animal.*
- **Food:** Keep at least three days of food in an airtight, waterproof container. Include a manual can opener, if needed. Include a feeding schedule, too.
- **Water:** Store at least three days of water specifically for your pets(s), in addition to water you need for yourself and your family.
- **Medication:** be prepared to include your pet's medication in the go-kit, and include written instructions.
- **Pet Identification Info:** Write down the following information about your pet: your contact information, your pet's species, breed, age, sex, color, any other identifying features, medical needs, and vaccinations. Put a copy of your pet's information, along with a photo of yourself with your pet, in a ziploc bag and put it in your pet's emergency go-kit.
- **Crate or other Pet Carrier:** In case you ever need to evacuate, you should have a crate and bedding large enough for your dog to be able to stand, turn around, and lie down comfortably. At a minimum, cat owners should have a sturdy carrier. Ideally, bring a crate large enough for the cat's carrier (as a hidey-hole), a small litter box, and food and water bowls.
- **Sanitation:** Have plenty of "doggy-do" baggies in your kit, and keep a small cat litter pan and litter, even if your cat is used to going outdoors.
- **Implanted Identification Chip:** Talk to your veterinarian about getting a microchip implanted in your pet, and enrolling your pet in a recovery database. **IMPORTANT:** please make sure you register and activate the chip.

For more information on disaster preparedness, go to the website of the Mass Emergency Management Agency, MEMA, www.mema.gov or to www.ready.gov. If you don't have a computer, visit your local library for information.

MV DART is an affiliate of SMART, the
State of Massachusetts Animal Response Team
***If you would like to volunteer for MV DART, contact Rita Brown, (508)221-8347 or
Marina Lent (509)-645-2105***