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HURRICANE PREPARATION

Living in the Gulf Coast area, it's not a matter of *if* a hurricane develops but *when!* ***The time to plan for a hurricane is before hurricane season begins, not when a hurricane is a threat to your area!***

Think of some potential problems before they arise:

- You can't find a place to stay that accepts large dogs.
- You have too many dogs and can't fit all of them in your vehicle.
- Your dog doesn't travel well.
- You need to go to an evacuation shelter and they don't allow pets.

Just as you plan for your family and your home, you need to have a plan of action for your pets. At the onset of hurricane season, they're 4 main things that need to be done.

- Set up an evacuation plan.
- Buy and store things that will be needed in the event of a hurricane.
- Put together a first aid kit (see GPAH handout).
- Talk to your vet about Dramamine, sedatives and even snake bite kits.

If you live in a mandatory evacuation area, it's best if you leave *early*. Traffic has been known to come to a standstill and remain that way for hours. In order to conserve gasoline, you may be forced to turn off your engine or air conditioner. The temperatures in your car will rise very quickly and could be disastrous to your greyhound(s). To repeat, if you know you live in a mandatory evacuation, please do not wait until the last minute. Leave as soon as possible.

If you evacuate, please, please **DO NOT** leave your pet behind. You may find, upon your return, your pet has perished. This **CANNOT BE STRESSED ENOUGH!!!!!!** If you must leave and cannot take your pet(s) with you, make other arrangements for someone to care for them. Your pet is your responsibility!! It is inhumane to leave helpless animals alone and expect them to fend for themselves. If you have multiple pets and find that you cannot safely transport all of them in your vehicle, ask family, friends or neighbors if they would mind helping you by evacuating together so they may be able to have one of your pets in their vehicle.

IF YOU EVACUATE

RAW FOOD - If you raw feed, begin to transition your hound(s) to dry or can food when there is a *threat* of a hurricane. Without electricity, raw food will spoil fast. Greyhounds have sensitive stomachs and the last thing you want is a dog stuck in a car or a house with digestive problems. If there is any question as to whether or not the raw food has spoiled, take no chance in having your greyhound(s) become sick.

DRY OR CAN FOOD - Be sure to have enough dry or can dog food to last at least 2 weeks. If power is lost for a long period of time, you may not be able to purchase more food.

WATER - Electricity will most probably be lost; temperatures and humidity will be high. And because of this, you may find that your hound(s) is consuming more water than he/she would normally drink. It would be a good idea to have a 2 week supply of water stored in case the public water system is contaminated. A good rule of thumb would be to double the amount of water that your dog(s) normally drinks. It is also a good idea to freeze a bowl of water the day before you leave so, as you travel, the ice melts and your dog(s) have cool water to drink.

BOWLS AND CAN OPENER - If you feed can food, don't forget a can opener. Also, with so much to do, it's easy to forget the little things. Don't forget their food bowls.

CRATE - Even if you normally do not crate your greyhound(s) at home, you may want to use a crate at this time. Family and friends may be more willing to invite you to evacuate to their home if you are willing to crate your dog(s). Also, most hotels only allow dogs under 30 pounds. The rule may be bent if you promise to crate them.

SPRAY BOTTLE - When evacuating, bring with you a spray bottle filled with water. As stated before, traffic can slow down to a snail's pace. If you find the need to turn off your engine or air conditioner and temperatures rise, spray a fine mist of water on your hound(s). Concentrate the mist on the inside of their thighs, under their arms and their chest area. These are the areas where their veins and arteries carry their blood supply throughout their body. By cooling down these areas, you are helping to cool down their blood. Spraying just their backs and heads is not an effective way of cooling them down. It's the blood that needs to be cooled. A few drops of peppermint oil in the water may also help cool your greyhound(s). Remember, if you're hot, they're hotter!

INSTANT ICE PACKS - If your hound(s) is in danger of heat stroke, place instant ice packs (wrapped in a towel) on the areas mentioned above. Instant ice packs can be found at most pharmacies.

FIRST AID KIT - See GPAH's handout sheet as to what to include in an emergency kit. Including snake bite kits.

MEDICINE - You should take with you a 2 week supply of any medicine your pet(s) take on a regular basis. That includes heartworm prevention medication.

DRAMAMINE - Even if your dog(s) has never experienced motion sickness before, you may find that the stress he/she is experiencing is effecting him/her differently now. Dramamine may help with upset stomach and also help calm him/her down as well as dried ginger. Remember to ask your veterinarian the recommended dosage for your dog's weight.

MUZZLE - If evacuating with multiple greyhounds, it's important to MUZZLE. The last thing you want is a dog fight in your car and trying to find a vet that's open. Remember, the stress and anxiety that your greyhound(s) may be experiencing at this time may cause your normally calm dog(s) to behave differently.

BEDDING - If possible, bring the bed that they normally sleep on. Try to keep things as familiar as possible.

TOYS - Don't forget to pack their favorite toys. You may also want to buy some Kong® toys that you can fill with peanut butter and freeze. This will help in 2 ways. It will keep them occupied on the long trip and the frozen peanut butter can help keep them cool.

THUNDER SHIRT® - Thunder Shirts® can be found online and in pet stores and some vets. These shirts not only help with a fear of thunder, but with other anxiety as well. Keep in mind that these shirts are HOT. If the temperature is too hot in the car, these shirts should not be used.

IMMUNAZATION RECORDS - Kennels require records of your pet's immunization. Even if you have no intention of kenneling your greyhound(s), things happen and you may be forced to find a kennel for them. It's best to have the records with you than to be frantic trying to get records sent in the middle of a hurricane!

LEASHES - Don't forget the leash. It's easy to forget the obvious!

POOP BAGS - Be a good and responsible dog owner. ALWAYS clean up after your dog(s). You want to be welcomed back to your place of refuge.

PAPER TOWELS - Paper towels will come in handy if your dog(s) has an "accident" while away from home.

PLASTIC TRASH BAGS - Trash bags will come in handy to toss the "accident" paper towels in.

HAND SANITIZER - Sanitizer will come in handy after you clean up the "accident".

EXTRA ID TAG - Have your mobile phone number and the address of where you will be staying on the extra tag. This is in addition to your GPAH tag. **ALWAYS KEEP YOUR GPAH TAG ON YOUR GREYHOUND!!**

SHELTER IN PLACE

If you choose to stay home and shelter in place, you still need to plan for your hounds' well being. Keep your pets in the same room that their family is in. They may find comfort having their "pack" together. Try to stay clear of windows, fireplaces, and appliances. In the case of a power surge, the appliances may make a noise and startle them. As stated before, in most cases electricity will be lost and temperatures and humidity will rise quickly. Same things that have been recommended in the evacuation section are also recommended if you shelter in place with the addition of these:

DOG LIFE VEST - If you live in an area that is prone to flooding, having a dog life vest is worth the investment. Because of their lean muscle mass, greyhounds are not very good swimmers. A flotation device could save their life.

FILL A BATHTUB WITH WATER - If your greyhound(s) is showing signs of heat stroke, immediately place him/her in the bathtub.

POST HURRICANE

Just as it's important to inspect your home and property for hurricane damage, it's also very important to look for any dangers that could harm your pet(s). Some things to check for are:

- Fallen electrical wires
- Nails
- Broken glass
- Debris
- Snakes
- Rats and other rodents
- Wild animals that may have sort out higher ground
- Standing water near fallen electrical wires
- Fence damage

Do not allow your pet(s) to enter the yard before you have cleared it for safety. Even after you have inspected your property, leash your pet(s) to bring him/her out. Even though you have giving your yard a once over, greyhounds can see and smell things you may have missed. By leashing your dog(s), you can also keep him/her from drinking any standing water. And if they would be injured, you would at least know what caused the injury and how to treat it.

Before you give your pet(s) any tap water, check with the city to see if the water is safe to drink. If the water has not been cleared for human consumption, it's not safe for your pets either.

HURRICANE CHECK LIST

THE BEGINNING OF HURRICANE SEASON

TO DO:

- Set up an evacuation plan – Have an idea of where you will go.
- Put together first aid kit (see GPAH handout).
- Talk to vet about sedatives, snake bite kit and Dramamine dosages.
- Buy items needed to evacuate or shelter in place.

TO STORE:

- Dog food, 2 week supply
- Water, 2 week supply
- Crate, 1 for each pet
- Spray bottle
- Instant ice packs
- Extra supply of your hound's medication including Dramamine, heart worm prevention & sedatives, if needed.
- Can opener & spoon (if feeding can food)
- First aid kit
- Poop bags
- Copies of vaccination records
- Hand sanitizer
- Paper towels
- Plastic trash bags

- Dog life vest

WHEN HURRICANE IS A THREAT TO YOUR AREA AND YOU NEED TO EVACUATE

TO DO:

- Decide what area you will be evacuating to.
- Talk to your neighbors, friends or family and ask for help if you can't safely fit all of your pets in your vehicle.
- Locate kennels in the evacuation area.
- Locate veterinary in evacuation area.
- Locate emergency veterinary in evacuation area.
- Call hotels and ask about their pet policy.

DAY BEFORE TRAVEL

TO DO:

- Freeze a bowl of water.
- Freeze Kong® with peanut butter.
- Fill spray bottle with water and peppermint oil and put in the refrigerator.
- Put on your pets extra ID tag with name and address where you will be staying. Don't forget to add your mobile phone number.

DAY OF TRAVEL

TO PACK:

- Crate
- Spray bottle
- Instant ice packs and towel
- First aid kit
- Medicine, including heartworm prevention and Dramamine
- Muzzle
- Kong toy & other toys
- Bedding
- Thunder Shirt®
- Food
- Water
- Bowls
- Can opener
- Pet vaccination records
- Leashes
- Poop bags
- Paper towels
- Plastic trash bags
- Hand sanitizer
- Name and address of vets in the evacuation area
- Name and address of kennels in the evacuation area

And remember, if you are traveling with more than 1 greyhound, MUZZLE!! It's the safest thing to do.

WHEN HURRICANE IS A THREAT TO YOUR AREA AND YOU SHELTER IN PLACE

DAY BEFORE HURRICANE

TO DO:

- Fill bathtub with water
- Fill spray bottle with water and peppermint oil
- Freeze water bowl

Whether you evacuate or shelter in place, this will be a stressful time for both you and your greyhounds. Try to keep as much routine as possible at this time. Try to feed them at the same time as you usually do, pet them, groom them and play with them as much as possible. Stay safe and check another hurricane season off your list!!!