



Don't ever consider staying with your boat in a hurricane. Make preparations early and evacuate for your safety. Monitor weather and sea conditions closely. If watches or warnings are issued, don't venture onto the water unless you are confident your vessel can be navigated safely under the conditions. Follow the tips below to minimize damage to your vessel during a hurricane.

PREPARE YOUR BOAT

- Create a hurricane plan for your boat and file a copy with the marina operator.
- Take a photographic inventory of your boat and its contents.
- Purchase and stow mooring line for storm – line should be about twice the diameter of normal line.
- When a storm is approaching, remove loose items on the deck – bimini tops, dinghies, etc. – and store them on land. Shut off fuel lines at the tank.
- Keep batteries charged; make sure bilge pumps are operating properly.
- Keep insurance up-to-date.



- HIGH AND DRY**
- Your best choice is to keep your boat high and dry on shore:
- Store boat and trailer in a secure covered building, such as a garage.
 - If left outside, secure using ground hooks and straps.
 - Fill boat partially with water for stability. Keep water away from engine/batteries.
 - Put wooden blocks between trailer frame and springs for extra support with added weight.

- MOORED AT DOCK**
- Secure hatches and doors.
 - Double up on mooring lines and spring lines to secure boat in its mooring.
 - Use several cleats to distribute the load on the boat.
 - Allow extra line for tide and storm surge.
 - Use chafing gear, such as reinforced radiator hose where lines will rub for protection – several feet on each side.
 - Disconnect electric, water and other dock connections.
 - Remove valuables.

- ANCHORED**
- Anchor on the lee side of protective land rather than mooring to a dock.
 - Use two anchors and no stern anchor.
 - Line length should be six to nine times water depth for storm surge shift.
 - Remember the boat's position may change drastically during the storm.

Lastly... batten down the hatches!

BRIDGE OPERATION IN A STORM

During the approach of a hurricane, Pinellas County's 10 bascule bridges – or drawbridges – will operate in a modified mode to give preference to evacuating vehicle traffic until the bridges go into lock-down position to ensure barrier islands are evacuated and to protect the bridges from wind damage.

The U.S. Coast Guard will coordinate with local and state agencies to issue a special marine advisory when the bascule bridge operations will be modified. NOAA weather radios, local media and marine broadcasts will announce these changes.

The 10 bascule bridges are located at: Pinellas Bayway, Tierra Verde, Corey Causeway, John's Pass, Tom Stuart Causeway, Indian Rocks, Dunedin Causeway, Beckett Bridge, Park Boulevard and Treasure Island.



Just like other members of the family, pets need to be part of your disaster plan. If you have to evacuate, do you know if pets are allowed where you're planning to stay? If you are staying home, what will your pet need if your family must survive without basic necessities after a storm?

Pinellas County Animal Services:
(727) 582-2600

SHELTERING WITH YOUR PET

Pet-friendly? If you will evacuate during a storm, make sure the host home, hotel or shelter where you're going accepts your type of pet.

Pet-friendly hotels: Call *Visit St. Pete/Clearwater* at (727) 464-7200 for options or search the web for **pet-friendly hotels** in the area. Some hotels have emergency policies to take pets in an evacuation.

Pet-friendly hotel info is also available through the **Know Your Zone** feature on the "Doing Things For You" app during evacuations (accommodations feature), as hotels report their availability and emergency pet policies.

Can I board my pet? Don't assume a kennel or hotel will take your pet in an emergency. Call ahead to find kennels in non-evacuation zones that could take your pet. Kennels require proof of vaccinations.

Can I take my pet to an animal shelter? NO - Animal shelters, such as Pinellas County Animal Services or SPCA Tampa Bay, CANNOT accept your pets during an emergency.

Can a family member outside the evacuation zone take my pet? Ask them now.



Horses, livestock and other animals: Pinellas County provides no public areas to leave these animals during an evacuation, so it's important to make arrangements. Check the Sunshine State Horse Council website: www.floridahorse.com.

REGISTER EARLY FOR SHELTER

Pinellas County operates three pet-friendly public shelters for dogs and cats only. Owners can stay in the same building as their pets. Space is limited at these shelters and they should be considered a last resort in your plan. Mobile home residents get first priority.

If you will need to stay at a pet-friendly shelter, you **must register** ahead of time: Call (727) 582-2600 or fill

out a form online at www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/petpreparedness.htm.

PET PLAN & SUPPLY LIST

- DO THESE THINGS:**
- Keep current vaccination records.
 - Take a photo of your pet to keep with you.
 - Download the county's pet identification form at www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices; tape this to your pet's kennel if your pet will be sheltered apart from you.
- PACK THESE THINGS:**
- Identification
 - Immunization records
 - County rabies tag

- Food & water with bowls (two-week supply) – can opener if needed
- Carrier or portable kennel (with room to stand and turn around)
- Muzzle, collar and leash
- Medications
- Toys/blanket
- Cat litter, pan and scoop
- Plastic waste bags
- Disinfectant
- Paper towels

Remember, if you must evacuate, you may have to care for your pet for an extended period of time – plan accordingly.

Post-disaster animal collection

After a storm, stray animals will be collected and taken to temporary collection sites and then transferred to more permanent sites that will be announced to the public. If you lost your pet, look in the area around your home or call Animal Services.

Volunteer for pet pick-ups

Interested in helping the county transport pets for citizens with special needs during an evacuation? Call Animal Services for more information.

