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## It's Hurricane Preparedness Week in Massachusetts

ARL Reminds Pet Owners to Include Pets for Emergency Plans

Governor Charlie Baker has declared July 11-17 as Hurricane Preparedness Week in Massachusetts, and the Animal Rescue League of Boston (ARL) reminds pet owners that when preparing for any emergency situation, remember to include pets in the planning process.

ARL recommends pet owners keep the following tips in mind for pets:

- 1. Assemble an Emergency Supply Kit. Each animal in your household needs their own kit and should include at least a one-week supply of food and water, along with collapsible dishes; a week supply of medication; photographs, tags, and other identification; leash, harness, crate/carrier; toys, blankets and treats; waste bags, litter and litter tray
- 2. Locate Pet-Friendly Evacuation Centers. Many, but not all, evacuation centers allow pets. Check your area for not only evacuation centers, but pet-friendly hotels, boarding facilities, and even friends or relatives that would allow you, your family, and your pets to stay.
- 3. **Make Sure Your Pet is Microchipped.** It's the simplest way to be reunited with your pet should you become separated. If your pet is already microchipped, make sure all contact information is correct and up to date.
- 4. **Develop a Buddy System.** Connect with friends and neighbors to ensure that someone is willing to evacuate your pets if you are unable to.

Additionally, storm conditions including howling winds, driving rain, thunder and lightening, among others, can drastically increase anxiety for your pet. During a storm make sure to keep an extra sharp eye on your pet, keep them as comfortable as possible and reward calm behavior.

## ABOUT THE ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON:

*The Animal Rescue League of Boston (ARL) is an unwavering champion for animals in need, committed to keeping them safe and healthy in habitats and homes.* Founded in 1899, ARL provides high-quality veterinary care, adoption, and rescue services; while also confronting the root causes of animal cruelty and neglect through innovative community programs, police investigations, and public advocacy. In 2020, ARL served nearly 17,000 animals throughout Massachusetts. ARL is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. The Animal Rescue League of Boston does not receive government grants or public funding (with the exception of limited COVID-19 relief funding) and relies on the generosity of our supporters to help animals in need. For more information please visit us online at arlboston.org; and be sure to follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

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