Christie Administration Urges Preparedness for New Jersey Pet Owners in Hurricane Sandy's Path

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Trenton, NJ – The New Jersey Department of Agriculture is passing along this message from the American Veterinary Medical Foundation, with specific steps to take in safeguarding pets during evacuations as a result of Hurricane Sandy:

The American Veterinary Medical Foundation (AVMF) is urging pet owners to remember their pets when preparing for Hurricane Sandy.

The AVMF offers the following advice:

- Should you have to evacuate, take your pets with you
- All pets should have a collar and tag or be identifiable through an up-to-date microchip or tattoo
- Have an ample supply of food, bottled water and any medications they require
- Keep a photo of your pet(s) and a physical description in case they become lost

Should you have to evacuate, remember to have on hand the following:

- A leash, collar and/or harness for each pet
- A collapsible cage for each pet that includes owner identification and proper bedding
- A litter pan for cats along with a scoop
- Food, water, medications and feeding bowls
- Veterinary records
- First aid kit
- And don't forget a can opener

Pet owners should pre-identify an evacuation meeting site and can use www.myveterinarian.org to find veterinary medical and boarding services that may be necessary in an emergency.

Additional disaster preparedness materials can be found at the American Veterinary Medical Association website www.avma.org. If you want to know more about the disaster relief that the AVMF offers to veterinarians who provide medical services and care to animals affected by disasters, visit www.avmf.org.

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