

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rain, Rain, Go Away!

NAPPS Provides Flood Preparation Advice for Northeast Region Pet Parents

MOUNT LAUREL, N.J., September 30, 2011 – What starts as a shower can turn into a destructive thunderstorm, knocking over trees and telephone poles leaving communities helpless and under water. As the Northeast region faces the aftermath of the summer's extreme rainfall accumulation, the flooding rain continues. Families all over the area have been washed out of their homes. The National Association of Professional Pet Sitters (NAPPS), a national nonprofit dedicated to promoting the welfare of animals, encourages pet parents along the Northeast region to take precautions to protect the lives of their pets as the rain persists.

“We have seen record setting rainfall in many parts of the country, and flooding can present a real danger to pets,” said president of NAPPS, John D’Ariano. “Being prepared can make all the difference. We encourage pet parents to review NAPPS’ free Emergency Planning Guide at <http://bit.ly/EmergencyGuide> for more information and tips on keeping their animals safe during the storms and beyond.”

Floods are classified according to whether they are slow – or fast-rising. Slow-rising floods typically occur as floodwaters move down a river or stream and can often be predicted to reach a certain height. Flash floods are usually the result of extremely heavy rain or melting snow and occur suddenly. They can also result from a dam or levee failure. Depending on the flood forecast, always take the necessary precautions:

- Flash flood watch – Issued when flooding is possible within the designated watch area: be alert. Listen to your radio for flood forecasts and prepare for evacuation with your animals.
- Flash flood warning – Issued when a flash flood has been reported or is imminent: take necessary precautions.
- Flood warning – Issued as an advance notice that a flood is imminent or is in progress at a certain location or in a certain river basin. Take precautions as directed. Start to relocate large animals that are in danger.

Preparing for floods includes actions such as stockpiling and replenishing emergency supplies, planning evacuation routes, and ensuring that equipment and vehicles are in proper working condition:

- If you live in a flood prone area you may want to purchase floatation halters, or vests for your cats and dogs pet safety. These can be obtained online thru <http://www.WestMarine.com> or your local marine store. Vests are sold mostly for dogs, but the small dog vest would fit a cat.
- Keep your car, truck, or other vehicles fueled. If electric power is disrupted, gas station pumps may be out of operation for several days.
- Make family and animal evacuation plans. If you are in a flash flood area, have several alternate routes to ensure rapid evacuation. Start moving animals in advance of any danger. Even if the evacuation turns out to have been unnecessary, at least you have practiced for the time when it might be.
- Maintain an Emergency Supply Kit.
- You should have a way to keep animals safely confined when you have evacuated and are living in a temporary setting.

- Ensure that animals are properly identified — keep a collar and identification tag on pets at all times.
- Store drinking water in jugs, bottles, and pans. Be sure to include enough water for the animals in your household.
- Maintain your animal’s vaccinations.
- If you hear a flash flood warning, or hear the roar of approaching waters, act immediately. Head for the nearest high ground without hesitation, bringing with you animals in danger.
- Even if you are not sure where to take your animals, do not leave them behind (unless it would compromise your safety).
- If you must leave an animal behind, ensure that it always has an easy escape route. Never tie an animal up if floods are pending. Many animals have died during floods when owners left them confined.
- If your car stalls while in flowing water, abandon it immediately, taking with you any animals (unless it would compromise your safety). Cars may only serve as traps in the face of a raging flood.

NAPPS provides the NOAA's National Weather Service alerts through the [NAPPS website](#), as well as a free 20-page downloadable [guide to disaster preparation](#) for pet parents at <http://bit.ly/EmergencyGuide>. The guide includes disaster preparation tips, pet identification forms, disaster preparation checklists, and preparation information for specific natural disasters.

In addition to disaster preparation, NAPPS equips pet parents with the tools to face everyday pet emergencies through its [pet parent resource page](#) on its website. Visit www.PetSitters.org for further information.

About NAPPS: NAPPS is the only national nonprofit trade association dedicated to serving the needs of professional pet sitters. The Association aims to help the pet owning public, those interested in pet sitting, and professionals engaged in the in-home pet care industry by fulfilling its vision statement, serving as “the most respected authority in professional pet sitting.” It does so by providing the tools and support to foster the success of its members. Additionally, pet parents can benefit from NAPPS’ free resources including a disaster preparedness guide, tips on how to select a pet sitter, and a nationwide referral service,. To find a pet sitter in your area, check out NAPPS’ nationwide “Pet Sitter Locator” at www.petsitters.org. For more information on NAPPS, please follow [@TheNAPPS](#) on Twitter or join us on Facebook at facebook.com/TheNAPPS.

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