

Hurricane Policy - Parkland Veterinary Hospital

These policies take effect if Parkland Veterinary Hospital is in the direct or proximate path of an oncoming hurricane which includes any and all potential cone shaped projections or forecasts.

Policy:

- If we are in the path of an impending hurricane about to make landfall, we will close for business and will remain closed until the hurricane passes, our staff is able to commute to the hospital, all utilities have been restored (light, water, sewer, and phone/internet), and the facility is safe to operate (i.e. no major repair to damages or major cleanup required).
- Barring unusual situations and special exceptions, we do not **offer overnight hospitalization care** for pets. In the event of such an unusual case occurring around the time of an impending hurricane, the client will be requested to pickup and transfer their pet to a hurricane-ready, 24-hour, animal emergency hospital. We will help to facilitate the transition.
- **Pet Boarding** - No pets will be boarded during the time of expected landfall of a hurricane (advanced notice and hurricane tracking will facilitate this decision). Pet owners will be asked to **pick up their pets at least one day prior to hurricane landfall. See hurricane shelter below.**
- Owners **out of town for an extended period of time** will be contacted (emergency contact phone number and/or alternate contact person) and a family member or emergency contact will be requested to pick-up their pet at least one day prior to the hurricane landfall.
- Pets whose owners/alternate contacts are **unable to be contacted for a decision** will be automatically boarded at a hurricane ready facility to be paid for at owner's expense.
- **For clients with pet's already boarding before the hurricane path is determined**, please note that in your absence we will always make the right decisions to keep your pets safe.

Hurricane-Ready Facilities:

- A hurricane ready facility is defined as any animal hospital or pet boarding facility that has emergency backup generator(s) and is willing to accept boarding patients expecting to ride-out a hurricane or storm. These facilities are reputable, but self designated and are not, to our knowledge, officially certified or sanctioned by any third party or government body. Once an owners pet(s) has been transferred to one of these facilities, owners will have to abide by the rules of that facility and at that point of transfer, Parkland Veterinary Hospital will not be in control of or be held responsible for their pets' care and wellbeing. However, ***we do trust in the reputation and goodwill of these facilities that will likely not refuse any pets.***
- List of nearby hurricane-ready/ 24-hour emergency facilities and other useful contacts:
 - **Palm Beach County:** Calusa Veterinary Center (Category 3 or lower hurricane otherwise evacuation recommended), 6900 Congress Ave, Boca Raton FL, phone: **561-325-7433**.
 - **Broward County:** Coral Springs Animal Hospital (hurricane category limit unknown), 2160 N University Dr, Coral Springs FL, phone: **954-753-1800**.
 - **Pet-Friendly Hurricane Shelter Registration: 954-989-3977 option 7.** (Broward County's pet-friendly shelter at Millennium Middle School in Tamarac, operated by the Humane Society of Broward County and the American Red Cross. Pre-registration required)
 - **Animal Care & Regulation, Broward Country 954-359-1313; Palm Beach (561) 233-1200**