



Emergency Preparedness for Pet Owners

**Becky Adcock, DVM
Public Information Officer
Louisiana State Animal Response
Team**



What is LSART?



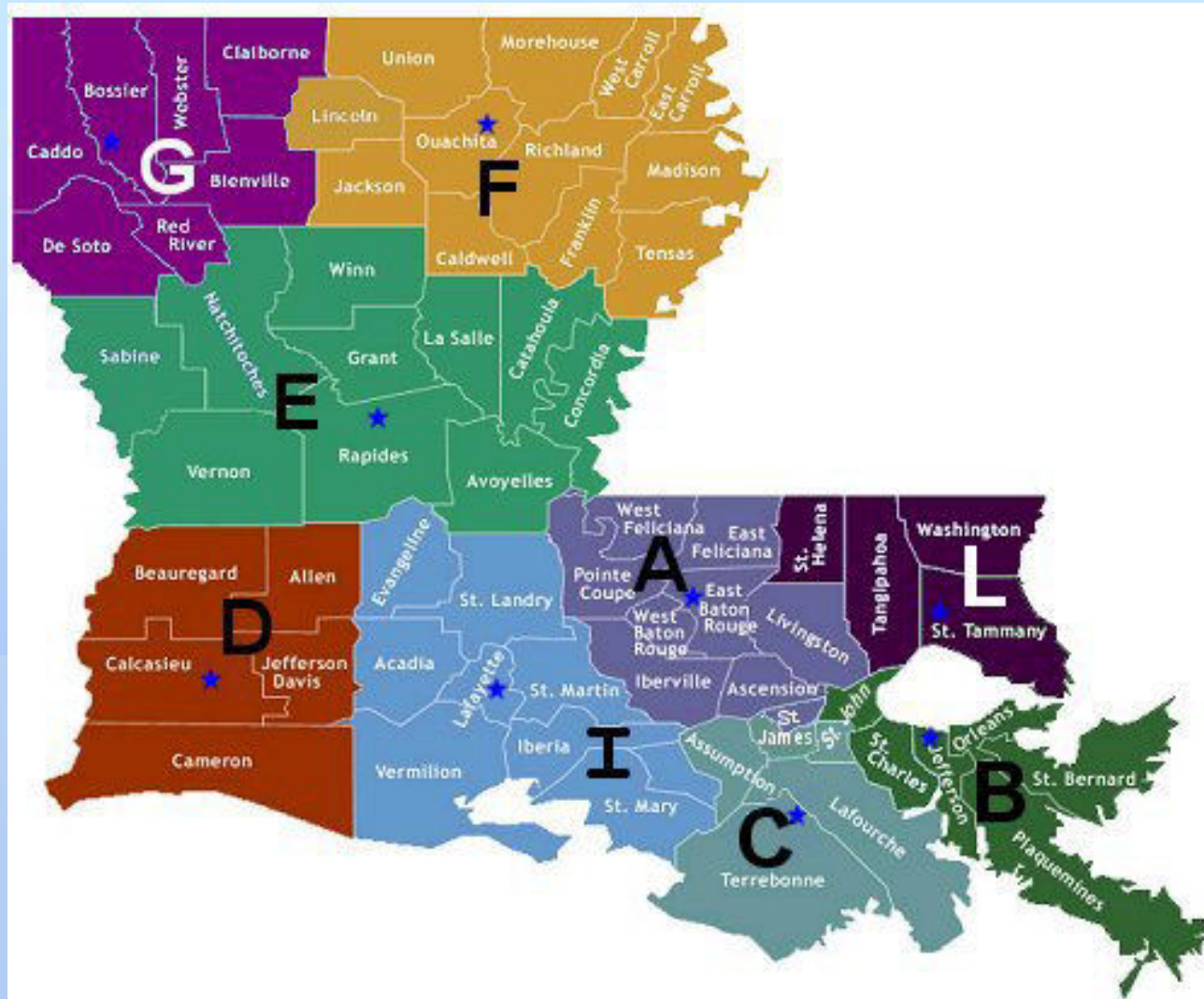
- **Louisiana State Animal Response Team (LSART) is an organization of groups and individuals with an interest in animal well-being related to emergencies or disasters.**
- **This includes governmental agencies, veterinarians, animal control officers, humane organizations, and citizen volunteers.**
- **LSART works as a volunteer partner under the authority of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry (LDAF) in Louisiana's emergency planning structure.**

What does LSART do?



- Assists state agencies in planning and preparing for all types of emergencies involving all animals
- Registers teams of volunteers in small animal, equine and food animal sections
- Training and State credentialing of volunteers and out-of-state partners
- Responds to emergencies by assisting with evacuation, sheltering, and search and rescue
- State divided into nine LSART regions corresponding to OEP districts, each with regional response teams for small and large animals
- LSART Web Site www.lsart.org

LSART DISTRICTS





State Evacuation Plans:

Louisiana Pet Evacuation Act, Act 615

- Includes pets in state and parish emergency operations planning
- Allows safely confined pets on public transportation during evacuation
- Requires identification of sites for pet evacuation shelters and standardized operating procedures at shelters
- Requires animal facilities to file annual evacuation plans



State Evacuation Plans:

- Evacuees needing assistance will be transported on buses and trains to human shelters in northern areas of the state
- Their pets will follow on air-conditioned pet transport trucks to co-located pet shelters
- Owners will be reunited with pets and will care for them at the pet shelter under the supervision of LSART shelter teams
- Pet shelters will be open to self-evacuators, but space will be limited





Parish Evacuation Plans:

- **12 Coastal Parishes**
 - Each parish has a different plan
 - Many people in sub-standard housing, require evacuation assistance
- **I-10 Corridor**
 - Not safe for pre-landfall shelters in major storm
 - Some assisted evacuation will be required
- **Northern Parishes**
 - Sites for Pet Mega-Shelters identified
 - Limited space in state shelters



Important Messages:

- **Space in pet evacuation shelters is limited**
- **Owners who place their pets in evacuation shelters will be required to care for their pets**
- **Pet shelters should be a last resort for self evacuators -They are often dusty, nonair-conditioned, and noisy. Stress can lead to illness.**
- **Pets are members of the family and should be included in your evacuation plan**

How to Prepare Pets for Emergencies:



- Don't leave your pet at home!
- While most evacuations last only a few days, there are times that you may not be able to return quickly.
- The safest place for your pet is with you.
- If you may be away from home when disaster strikes, have a plan for a neighbor or family member to evacuate your pet.
- Pet shelters at hospitals for care workers' pets



Where to go

- Follow designated evacuation routes
- Once on the road, stop at designated emergency check points along your route for information about where pet friendly shelters will be located.
- If you are staying with friends or family, make sure that your pets are invited as well.
- Ask for recommendations of veterinary hospitals or boarding kennels near your destination and make reservations in advance.



Where to go

- If you are going to a hotel, call ahead and make sure, in advance, that animals are welcome.
- Many hotels relax their policies during times of crisis, but don't assume that this will be the case.
- For on-line information about pet-friendly hotels, check out bringyourpet.com, petswelcome.com, or pets-allowed-hotels.com.
- *If it is impossible to take your pet with you, make advance reservations at a reputable veterinary hospital or boarding facility. Make sure the building is secure against storm damage, staff will be on hand after the storm, and backup power and water will be available.*



Medical Records

- Be sure that your pet is up-to-date on all vaccinations and bring proof of vaccinations and rabies license with you.
- It is a good idea to ask your veterinarian now for a copy of your pet's vaccination and health record.
- Keep pet records with your family emergency kit.
- If your pet is on medication, bring at least a two week supply.

Identification



- Identification of your pet is crucial! The ideal form of identification is a microchip or a tattoo.
- At minimum, your pet should have a collar and tag with his name, your name, and your phone number on it.
- Pictures of your pet that capture identifying features are also a good idea. A picture of you with your pet can aid identification if you are separated

**A microchip is a tiny permanent identification tag, placed under your pet's skin by your veterinarian. By registering your name and address with the microchip company, your pet can be scanned and instantly identified at any animal facility.*



Kennel keys

- Bring a kennel to safely contain your pet during travel and while away from home.
- Your pet's kennel should be large enough for him to stand and turn around.
- Collapsible wire crates are best if your pets might be in a non-air conditioned environment for an extended period.
- Molded plastic airline-approved crates make for easier transport and are best for animals that don't travel well in the car.



Emergency Prep List

- Enough pet food for one week
- Food bowl
- Water bowl
- Bottled water
- Leash
- Collar
- Proof of vaccinations
- Rabies tag
- Portable kennel
- All medications
- Litter box and litter for cats
- Trash bags for stool disposal
- Newspaper or towels for crate lining
- Cleaning supplies for waste disposal
- Heartworm preventative
- Flea and tick protection

Exotic Pets



- Bring your pet's entire habitat
- Don't forget heat lamps and extension cords
- Check ahead to make sure that exotic pets can be accommodated at your destination
- Exotic pets are being included in LSART planning



Plans for Horse Owners

- **Take care of yearly equine health needs**
- **Make an appointment with your veterinarian**
 - Regular vaccinations (Tetanus, EEE, WEE, WNV)
 - Dental care to maximize digestive health
 - Deworming if necessary
 - Yearly Coggins test (required by law!)
- **Provide proper nutrition (forage – good hay and supplemental grain if necessary)**

Evacuating your horse



- **Prioritize/choose which animals will be evacuating ahead of a storm**
- **Make sure your horse will load into a trailer**
- **Evacuate at least 3 days ahead of a storm**
- **Plan/Map-out evacuation route**
- **Plan destination**





Evacuating your horse

- Leave important contact information with neighbors
- Be sure to have enough cash for fuel
- Take provisions (food, water, cash) for people
- Take provisions for horses (hay, water, first aid kit)
- Take current equine Coggins forms when evacuating with your horse

Sheltering your horse



- **Do not lock horse in stall/barn**
- **Keep enough hay (elevated storage or covered in plastic) for 5-7 days**
- **Keep clean water source for 5-7 days**
- **Identify your horse two ways**
 - permanent microchip, lip tattoo, or brand
 - temporary → spray paint, paint stick, w/owner name & ph. #

Sheltering your horse



- Supply of batteries & flashlights
- First aid kit
- Post-storm clean-up kit
 - Chain saw, hammer, rakes, etc.
- Contact Parish OEP to say you are ok (or that you need help)
- Keep a copy of your evacuation plan on file with your parish OEP



Final Tips to Remember

- Pet ownership is a responsibility. Pets are part of your family and should be included in your family's evacuation plan.
- Identify in advance an evacuation destination that welcomes your pet and don't leave your pet at home.
- Don't rely on state pet-friendly evacuation shelters – space will be limited.



Information Resources

- www.lsart.org
- www.lssuequine.com
- www.lvma.org
- www.idaf.state.la.us
- www.redcross.org
- www.la-sPCA.org

