



## **News from the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders**

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### **A Planning Guide for Pets in a Disaster Is Available**

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina and the Gulf Coast response effort, more of a focus has been placed on including animals in disaster response plans.

With that in mind, the Somerset County Animal Response Team (CART), working under the auspices of the Somerset County Office of Emergency Management, has prepared the "Pet Disaster Planning Guide: Be Prepared to Take Your Pet with You!"

The guide offers important tips, lists pet-friendly hotels in the county and provides local animal organization resources.

"In an emergency, it's important that plans are in place for both family members and pets," said Freeholder Director Peter S. Palmer. This pamphlet is a useful tool in the planning process."

Residents may receive a **FREE** copy of the pamphlet by contacting the Somerset County Office of Emergency Management at 908-725-5070 or by printing it from the county Web site at [www.co.somerset.nj.us/health/Docs/revise%20\\_3\\_.pdf](http://www.co.somerset.nj.us/health/Docs/revise%20_3_.pdf).

In addition, copies are being distributed to veterinarians, pet-supply stores and local health departments throughout the county.

CART has designed an animal response preparedness plan for Somerset County that ensures procedures are in place and a team of professionals will be available to respond to and care for affected animals in the event of a disaster.

In an emergency evacuation, it's important that pet owners be prepared to bring their pets with them, along with up-to-date identification, pertinent medical records, food, water and a carrier.

CART is an all-volunteer group working under the county Office of Emergency Management, which is mandated by the state of New Jersey to create a countywide animal response evacuation plan in the event of a catastrophic disaster.

For more information about CART, contact the Somerset County Office of Emergency Management at 908-725-5070.

**Peter S. Palmer, Freeholder Director \* Rick Fontana, Freeholder Deputy Director**  
**Robert Zaborowski, Freeholder \* Jack M. Ciattarelli, Freeholder \* Patricia L. Walsh, Freeholder**  
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