



# Newsletter

April 2016

## How to prepare your pets for a tornado

A tornado is a scary threat to all of us who live in Oklahoma. Peak tornado season is upon us—follow these tips to keep your pets safe during severe weather.

### 1. Find out which shelters allow pets.

Many pet owners complain that they were turned away from shelters because they brought their pets. Call your local officials or the local American Red Cross and find out which shelters will allow you to have your pet with you. Find out your options and have a plan in place well in advance.

### 2. Use a pet carrier.

One of the most important pieces of equipment you can have during a severe weather event is a pet carrier. Carriers are required at many shelters and can serve as a safe space for a nervous pet. An airline approved carrier will also help protect your pet from falling debris should you decide to shelter at home. Be sure to label the carrier with your pet's name, your name, your current address and contact numbers.



### 3. Acclimate your cat to the carrier.

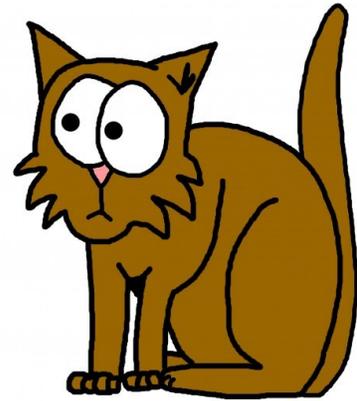
Start training your cat to associate the carrier with good things. Leave a carrier out at all times and place soft bedding in it. The bedding can even be laced with catnip or sprayed with pheromone spray. Slowly start moving your cat's food or treats closer to the carrier every day. Eventually you want to move the food into the carrier so that they associate the carrier with the good things in life. When the tornado sirens go off, it will make loading your cat much less frightening.

#### **4. Pack a week's worth of food, water and medicine.**

If possible, divide your pet's meals into individual storage bins or bags. This will help ensure you bring enough food and helps assist others who may have to care for your pet. Carry bottled water (8 ounces per day for a cat) and bowls. Pack any medications your pet is taking as well as flea preventatives.

#### **5. Microchip your pet.**

This is the most important thing to do for your pet! Collars and tags can easily be lost but a microchip implanted painlessly between the shoulders allows rescuers to quickly reunite you with your pet. Make sure to keep your contact information current with your pet's microchip registry. This can easily be done on line.



### **Speaking of Microchips.....**

Could you pick your black cat out of a line up of 12 black cats? In the aftermath of a tornado or other disaster, there are often a large number of pets that are found hiding or wandering in the debris. Rescuers will set up a temporary shelter for these animals and make efforts to reunite these pets with their families. Sadly, many of these animals are left homeless due to lack of identification.

A microchip is a tiny (about the size of a grain of rice) electronic chip that can be read easily with a scanner passed over the animal's shoulder. Each microchip has an unique number that is associated with your pet. After identifying that a pet is microchipped, the rescuer can then contact the microchip registry and get owner contact information. This ensures that the lost pet gets reunited quickly and to the correct owners.

Microchipping your pet is quick and painless and now **AFFORDABLE!** From now until the end of May, we will microchip your cat for \$30.00 which includes the first year of registration. Normal price \$63



## Construction Update

Our long awaited boarding expansion is about to begin! We are waiting for the permits to be issued by the city and then we will be underway. We will almost be doubling our boarding capacity while still maintaining large, comfortable suites with large windows to lounge in and the best bird watching in all of Tulsa! We will keep you updated in future newsletters and e-mails.



## The Person Behind the Face



Jessica Saylor is our afternoon and weekend receptionist, and has been a part of the Feline Specialties team since 2013. Jessica graduated from Glenpool High School in 2008, and is a current student at TCC studying Food Science. She shares her home with her 4 year old son Arlo, and her 2 cats, Albert & Stevie. Outside of work, Jessica likes to run, hike, climb rocks, longboard, rollerblade, bicycle, and figuring out what to eat next.

## Hospital Hours

Monday - Friday 7:00am - 6:00pm

Saturday 9:00am- noon

Sunday 9:00am—9:30am for drop offs and pick ups

**9702 Riverside Dr.**

## Contact Information

Phone (918) 299-8222

[www.felinespecialties.com](http://www.felinespecialties.com)

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E-mail for general information: [info@felinespecialties.com](mailto:info@felinespecialties.com)

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E-mail for Dr. O'Cain: [jocain@felinespecialties.com](mailto:jocain@felinespecialties.com)

## Emergency Information

For after hours emergency contact:

**Oklahoma Veterinary Specialists (OVS)**

(918) 299-4900

9360 S Union (west of highway 75 at the Jenks exit)

**Animal Emergency Clinic (AEC)**

(918) 665-0508

4055 S 102nd E AVE (west of highway 169 at the 41st Street exit)

