



*Indian River County*

# **Pet-Friendly Shelter**

*General Information*



Indian River County Department of Emergency Services  
Emergency Management Division  
4225 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue  
Vero Beach, FL 32967  
(772) 226-3900

## **Introduction**

Welcome to the Pet Friendly shelter. These rules and regulations were established with the safety and wellbeing of your animals as the primary objective. We will also strive to make your stay as comfortable as possible and accommodate your special needs but our priority will always remain the animals you entrusted in our care. Please review the information enclosed and feel free to ask any of our staff members for clarification or mention any concerns that we should be aware of.

### **General Information**

#### **CARING FOR THE ANIMALS**

Animal care (feeding, exercising and cleaning) shall be provided by the owners for each of their pets at their scheduled time. Special arrangements will be made for individual concerns such as administration of time sensitive critical medications (ex: meds for seizures, diabetes, and heart condition). Any medication not of a critical nature (ex: heartworm prevention, vitamins, allergies) should be given during scheduled appointments. All food, special diets, treats and any non-refrigerated medication shall be provided by and kept with the owners while at the emergency shelter.

The schedules were specifically designed in consideration for your pet's safety. Considerations were made to minimize contact between big dogs and small dogs, minimize the stress and potential health hazards by controlling the numbers of people and other animals walking past your pet's carrier location. For these reasons we must enforce the schedule times and count on your full cooperation.

Your pets will need quiet time to rest, and staff will need time to clean and organize. This time will be determined by shelter staff and visits with your pet may be limited for a short period during this time. Being in an emergency situation will be very stressful for you and your pets and we will do everything possible to help make it a less traumatic experience.

Despite the existence of this shelter, people who live in the emergency evacuation zone are strongly urged to make prior arrangements to go to the homes of friends and relatives who reside outside the area during declared emergencies. This is usually a more comfortable alternative for both people and pets than an evacuation shelter.

We have prepared answers to the following most commonly asked questions. If you have additional questions and/or concerns, please contact Indian River County Emergency Management, Indian River County Animal Control or the Humane Society of Vero Beach/Indian River County.

## **Most Frequently Asked Questions:**

### **1. *Where is the Pet Friendly Shelter located?***

- a. The location of this pet friendly shelter is the Liberty Magnet School located at 6850 81<sup>st</sup> Street, Vero Beach, Florida 32967.

### **2. *Who is eligible to seek shelter at the Pet-Friendly shelter?***

- a. This shelter was designed to assist those residents with animals, who reside in mandatory evacuation zones that have been determined by Indian River County Emergency Management. These areas include:

- Those residing on the Barrier Island
- Residents east of U.S. Highway #1
- Residents of mobile/manufactured homes
- Those residing in areas known to flood
- Those living in sub-standard homes

### **3. *What kinds of animals will be accepted at the Pet-Friendly shelter?***

- a. The Pet Friendly shelter will accept the following animals:

- Dogs
- Cats
- Birds
- Rabbits
- Small Rodents

### **4. *Is pre-registration necessary?***

- a. Pre-registration is not required. You will be provided a registration packet upon your arrival to the pet-friendly shelter. Shelter spaces are filled on a first-come-first-served basis. Having your registration paper work completed before your arrival will expedite the process and be a less stressful process for you and your pet(s).

### **5. *What if my pet becomes ill while in the Pet-Friendly shelter?***

- a. If your pet has a serious medical condition please be aware that there will be no access to emergency animal medical care at the Pet-Friendly shelter and alternative sheltering arrangements should be considered. If a healthy animal unexpectedly becomes ill, all attempts will be made by the staff to accommodate and make your pet comfortable until the storm has passed until such time you can safely seek the appropriate medical care for your pet.

## **Checklist of Supplies To Bring to the Shelter (For your Pet)**

In addition to the items you need to bring to the shelter for your own comfort please remember to pack the following items for your pet:

- Properly-fitted collar bearing pet's current license and identification tag
- Leash
- Portable crate/carrier for your pet - large enough to comfortably accommodate your pet with bedding, food/water bowls and litter pan (if applicable)
- Food/water bowls
- A two-week supply of water and pet food in a watertight container
- Up-to-date health records including:
  - ✓ A recent photo of you with your pet
  - ✓ Proof of rabies and county license (it is encouraged that you consult with your individual veterinary health care provider for recommendations about the use of additional vaccines for the optimal immunity for your pet against contagious disease.
- Your pet's medications – at least a one month supply
- For cats: Cat litter pan with cat litter and/or newspapers, litter scoop, and plastic bags for feces disposal
- Toys and healthy treats and towels
- First aid supplies

## **Checklist of Supplies To Bring to the Shelter (For Yourself)**

- Two blankets and a pillow for each person, along with lawn chairs, cots or sleeping bags
- Prescription medications and first-aid kit
- Two or three changes of clothing per person
- Special dietary needs, as well as favorite non-perishable snacks
- Battery operated radio, flashlight (extra batteries)
- (Copies of) Important documents such as: Proof of residence, ID, medical history, insurance papers, emergency contact information, tax documents, etc.
- Personal hygiene items, such as: soap, towel, toothbrush/paste, etc.
- Small toys, games and books
- Baby supplies, such as: diapers, bottles, formula, etc.

# INDIAN RIVER COUNTY PET FRIENDLY SHELTER RULES/AGREEMENT

Your safety and the safety of your pet(s) is our primary concern. All public shelters have established rules and the Indian River County Pet-Friendly shelter is no exception. A law enforcement officer is at each shelter to enforce rules.

Please observe the following at all times:

## **Observe all posted American Red Cross rules, including the following:**

- Do not bring alcohol, illegal substances or non-prescribed medications to the shelter.
- Smoking is permitted only in designated areas.
- No guns or weapons of any kind will be permitted on the premises.
- No disorderly or disruptive behavior will be tolerated.

## **Pet owner responsibility:**

- Pets are to remain contained in an approved carrier (hard plastic or wire) except at scheduled times.
- Each pet owner is responsible for assigning one caregiver for animal visitation, walking, cleaning, feeding, and administering medication.
- At least one family member must remain at the shelter at all times while their animal is being sheltered.
- To avoid gastric upset, pets should be fed their regular diet, water should be changed daily. Pet carriers and their immediate area are expected to be kept neat and clean.
- For safety reasons, always walk on the rubber walkway.
- Dogs should be kept on a short leash at all times when out of their carrier. Retractable leashes are discouraged.
- Dogs are to be walked in designated areas only and owners are expected to use waste bags (provided). There are designated disposal areas for waste.
- Pets and their carriers must maintain proper identification.
- Pet owners are responsible for any items brought to the shelter for themselves and/or their pet(s) and will not hold shelter staff responsible for items left behind.

**Courtesy:**

- Give your neighbor enough space to clean their pet's carrier.
- Do not put your fingers or hands in any pet carrier other than you own.
- Do not allow children under the age of 16 in the animal housing area without being accompanied by an adult.
- Do not spend more than your scheduled time in the animal housing area.

**Animal Health:**

- Pet owners will permit their pet(s) to be examined by qualified animal shelter personnel if their pet is showing significant signs of illness and/or distress.
- I certify that my pet(s) is current on rabies vaccination and will provide proof of same. I further certify that I will consult with my individual veterinary health care provider for recommendations about the use of additional vaccines that will provide the optimal immunity against contagious disease.
- I understand that the staff will use all reasonable precautions to prevent injury, exposure to disease or illness to my pet. Emergencies can and do happen, particularly in a stressful and unfamiliar environment. Although unlikely, my pet may become ill and/or injured and staff will take reasonable measures to deal with that illness and/or injury to the extent possible. I agree that any emergency medical care required for my pet will be at my expense.
- If a pet shows signs of contagious disease, is infested by parasites (fleas, ticks, lice, etc.), or begins showing signs of stress-related conditions, it may be removed to a more appropriate location as determined by the animal handler.

**Note:**

- Failure to comply with these rules may result in the removal of my pet(s) to another location.
- If my pet displays behavior deemed dangerous to the welfare of others (animal or human) or shows evidence of infectious disease, shelter personnel have the discretion to transfer my pet to a more appropriate location (Humane Society) for quarantine or isolation.

Owner's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

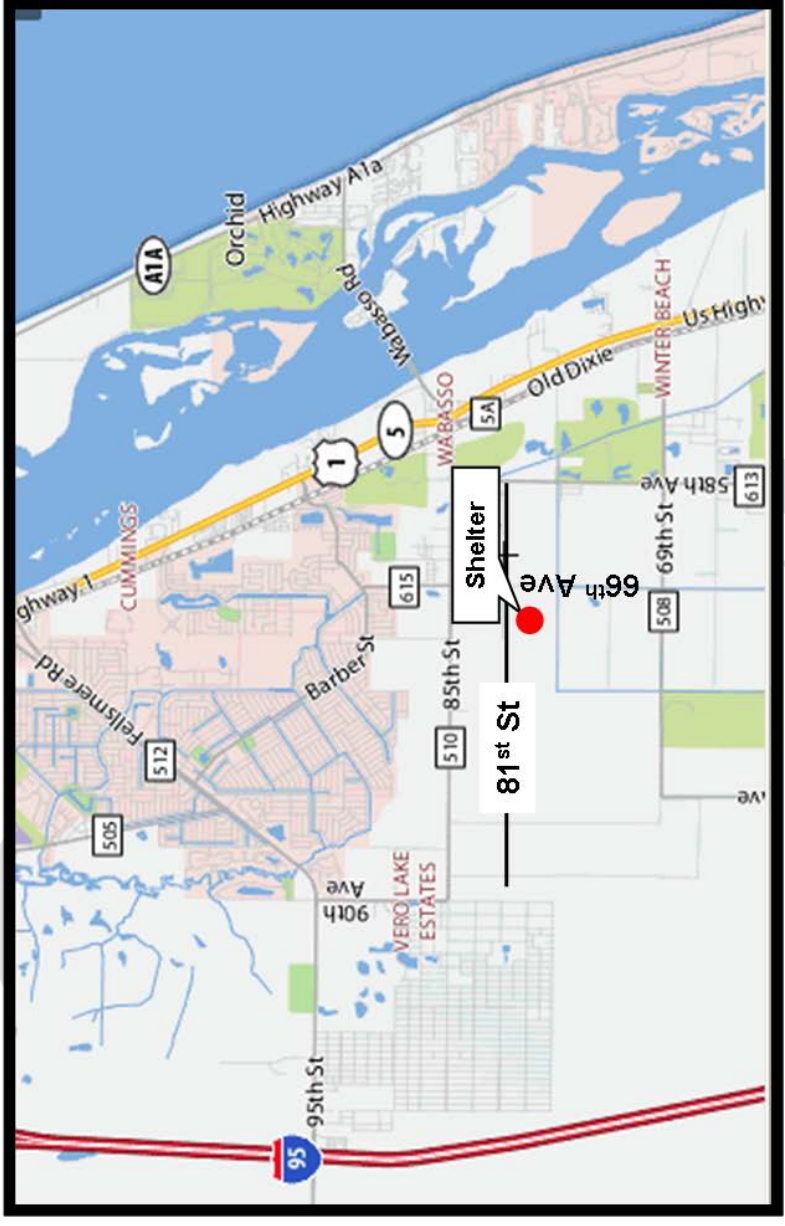
Driver's License # \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Shelter Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

# INDIAN RIVER COUNTY PET-FRIENDLY SHELTER

Liberty Magnet School  
6850 81st Street, Vero Beach, FL 32967



### Directions:

1. **From U.S. #1:** U.S. #1 to C.R. 510, west to 66<sup>th</sup> Avenue, south (left) a short distance on 66<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 81<sup>st</sup> Street and turn west (right). The school will be on the left side.
2. **From I-95:** Exit Fellsmere Road (Old Exit 69, New Exit 156), east (right) approximately 2.25 miles to C.R. 510, go south (right) on C.R. 510. You will pass the Sebastian River High School on the west (right) and you will pass Treasure Coast Elementary School further on the south (right) side. Continue further east to 66<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Go south (right) on 66<sup>th</sup> Avenue a short distance to 81<sup>st</sup> Street and turn west (right). The school will be on the left side.





Indian  
River  
County  
Emergency  
Management  
Division

*Don't forget your Pets!!*

*Pet-Friendly Shelter*

*Indian River County Residents ONLY!*



- **Purpose** – To provide safe shelter for pets/pet owners who reside in designated evacuation areas.
- **Location** – Liberty Magnet School: (6850 81st Street in Vero Beach).
- **Pets allowed** - Dogs, cats, birds, rabbits and small rodents (hamsters, gerbils, etc.).
- **Registration** – Register when you arrive at the shelter. **First-come, first-served!**

**Humane Society of VB&IRC (772) 571-6408 or [www.hsvb.org](http://www.hsvb.org)**  
**IRC Emergency Management (772) 226-3900 or**  
**[www.ircgov.com/emergencyservices](http://www.ircgov.com/emergencyservices)**