

**Newsletter of the  
Western and Southern Cape branches of the  
SOUTH AFRICAN VETERINARY ASSOCIATION**



**Except from: Veterinary Disaster Response** edited by Wingfield and Palmer

Link to the book: <http://eu.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-0813810140.html>

**Chapter 3.1 by Joan C Casey on Family versus business during a disaster**

The human-animal bond is powerful and pets become increasingly important members of the family unit. 75% of pet owners will refuse to evacuate in a disaster if their pet(s) are not safe. And it will be expected that services will be available for pets during a disaster. This will emotionally and psychologically affect a veterinary hospital and humane society.

So how can the veterinary hospital prepare their clients for a disaster?

The annual vaccination is a great opportunity to communicate with clients that they have to ensure their pets are identified with tags and/or microchips and that the microchip register is kept up to date.

Create a packet for the client with the following information:

List of first aid items;

Checklist of items for an emergency kit, such as leashes, food and carriers;

Emergency information card, where they can fill in alternate contacts for authorizing care of their pet, including a telephone number outside the immediate area;

Should your hospital/clinic be incapable of rendering service, locations where the client can get help for their pets (veterinary service, medication, including prescriptions, animal care facilities);

Copies of vaccination records;

Photograph of pet;

List of pet-friendly venues for temporary accommodation (different directions and distances from your immediate area).

Permission was granted on 21 Nov 2014 by the Publisher, Wiley Global Permissions, for the excerpts used in the Branch Newsletter.

Authorisation to photocopy items for internal or personal use, or the internal or personal use of specific clients, is granted by Blackwell Publishing, provided that the base fee is paid directly to the Copyright Clearance Centre, 222 Rosewood Drive, Danvers, MA 01923. For those organisations granted a photocopy licence by CCC, a separate system of payments have been arranged. The fee codes for users of the transactional Reporting Service are ISBN-13: 978-0-8138-1014-0/2009