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It's storm season in North Texas, and you aren't the only one affected. Some pets can suffer anything from mild anxiety to terror when strong winds, thunder, lightning and torrential rains hit. Planning for your pet's safety can prevent them from becoming injured, getting lost or causing property damage if they try to run from the storm.

Make sure all of your pets have identification on them. A collar with a rabies tag and an identification tag are a must. A collar or harness with the rabies tag attached is required, by City ordinance, to be displayed on all pets. Having your pet implanted with a microchip is a good way to ensure that you will be reunited with your pet if it does get lost. A microchip can be read by a scanner that all animal control officers carry. Most veterinarian offices also have microchip readers. The staff at the Burleson Animal Shelter can microchip your dog or cat for only \$15. You do not have to live inside the city limits of Burleson to purchase a microchip.

Bring outside pets inside before the storm hits. If you don't want them in the house, create a safe place for them in the garage. A dog house is not sturdy enough to ride out a storm. A safe place could be a crate or an indoor kennel or a dog or cat bed located in an interior room of the house. Closing the drapes and turning on a radio or TV could help ease your pet's anxiety.

If possible, stay with your pet during the storm. Pets prefer to have their owners in the same room to keep them calm.

Pets learn from positive reinforcement. Spend time with them during a storm to distract them. When your pet is calm, reward him or her with a treat, a belly rub or praise. It won't take long for your pet to learn that if he or she stays calm during bad weather, there will be a reward.

When you prepare your emergency supplies, remember to include food, water, medication and leashes for your pets.

If you have pets that experience high anxiety during storms, there are some calming aids. One is called Thunder Shirt. A Thunder Shirt is placed on a pet whenever a stressful event may take place. If your pet still remains nervous during storms, talk to your veterinarian about mild medications.