



# Pet Tips 'n' Tales

by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

What would you do when ordered to evacuate your home? With a category five hurricane looming, all Susan could think of was saving her personal petting zoo: four cats, two dogs, two birds and four fish. After the last frightening hurricane, her family vowed to never ride through one again.

"We knew that we might return to nothing so we packed important papers, clothes, computers, chargers, laptops, and pet harnesses, cages, dishes, pet food and water," said Susan. "It was difficult fitting possessions and pets in carriers into our small Volkswagen and Ford Fiesta."

At 5 a.m. on Saturday, we drove north following thousands of families. Heading south, we saw caravans of FEMA and utility vehicles on a vacant freeway. The entire state of Florida was under threat, so no hotel rooms were available. The seven-hour drive took 10 hours.

Our pets seemed to understand the emergency; but our rescue dog, Gracie, had to have homeopathic stress and car sickness. Our 20-year-old cat complained but soon settled down. They sensed our terror and did very well. It was a tough situation for us all.

We made stops so the animals could relieve themselves. We arrived to a filthy hotel, the only one available, and our pets were grateful to be out

of their carriers.

Surprisingly, in the cramped room, no one fought, even though they spit or hit each other at home. They were all on their best behavior. They would not eat at first, taking a while to settle down.

We were prepared with enough animal food, but not human food. We left for home the following Tuesday. Gas stations didn't have gas or electricity and 90% of the state was closed. We did not see anything open the entire way back and barely made it home. Our little cars with great gas mileage paid off or we would have been stuck for days until the gas stations reopened."

Susan's family had no idea if they had a home to return to, but as they pulled into their neighborhood they all began crying. Two tire tracks of debris five feet high lined their road, but miraculously their home was intact.

They and their pets were thrilled to be home, but for everyone's safety they checked for blown-in windows before unloading their pets. Miraculously everything was intact! Amazingly, their power came on 1/2 hour before they arrived home so their much needed air conditioner was working.

The cats emerged from 10 hours in their carriers and explored every inch of the house. Gracie

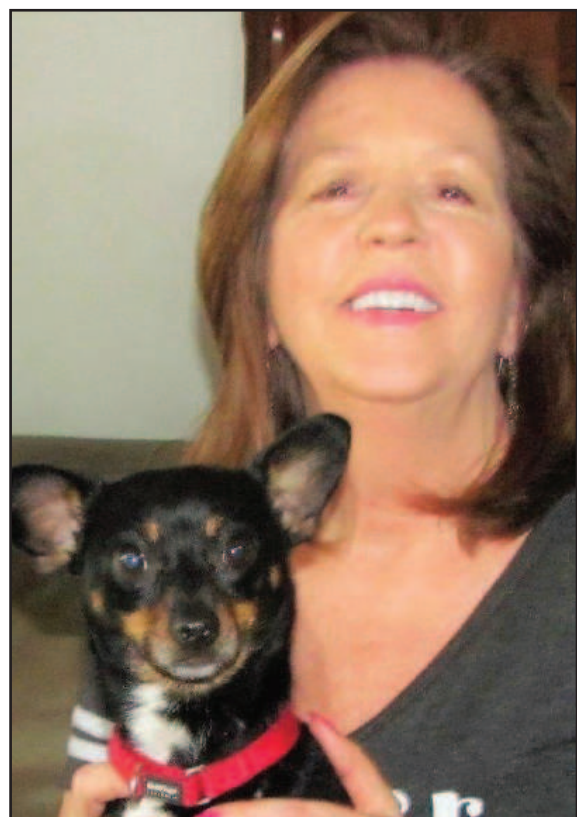
"ran rips in the back yard" - thrilled to be in her yard again, and their other dog, Echo, walked in the house and flopped on the floor as if hugging the linoleum.

"CJ our cockatiel entertained us by singing the entire drive - each way! I think my hearing is now impaired because of his volume!" laughs Susan. "The fish were so happy, that they were speechless at being home again!"

### TIPS

Susan is internationally known for educating pet parents about the pet food industry and what healthy foods to feed our pets. [truthaboutpetfood.com](http://truthaboutpetfood.com)

She learned to prepare for natural disasters because store shelves empty fast! Make a list of things you will need for two weeks and keep the list handy. Include documents, photographs, human and pet food, kitty litter, puppy pads, medical supplies in case of a pet emergency, cleanup products for car sick animals, and harnesses for cats because you can't leave them in carriers for days on end. Also, dog seatbelt harnesses, pet photos in case one escapes, and vet records. During floods, bungee cord small pet cages to floatation devices (swimming kick board). "We froze food and water and put them in a cooler ready to go," advises Susan. "Each pet had a carrier. They can



share a carrier when off to the vets, but it is a big deal when driving 10 hours. Keep extra leashes and collars, food bowls, and pet food with the carriers to grab at a moment's notice because not everyone is given a day to prepare, some families only have minutes."

FEMA's Emergency Animal Tips: <https://www.ready.gov/animals>. Tell us your fun/amazing/crazing pet tips and tales. [angelscribe@msn.com](mailto:angelscribe@msn.com) "Follow" Pet Tips 'n' Tales on Facebook. [facebook.com/PetTipsandTales](https://www.facebook.com/PetTipsandTales) Humane Society for spay and neuter (541) 942-2789.

## Budget

Continued from A1

staffing costs.

"It's people," Tucker said. "Most businesses, the cost is in staffing."

The district has made allowances for increases it can predict such as insurance (moving it from \$15.5 million this year to \$16 million next year) but for other factors, such as enrollment, it can only guess.

According to the district, enrollment has been on the downward trend the last few years with Tucker explaining that the kindergarten classes are not on track with the outgoing senior classes.

As of this week, the district's kindergarten class totals 189 students. The 12th grade class has 209 students.

School district receive money for each student that attends school. The numbers are tracked through the Average Daily Membership (ADM) which tracks the daily average enrollment in a district. That number, weighted, for South Lane is 3,357.

The remainder of the general fund is made up of local revenue including property tax and federal allotments. Local revenue for South Lane is expected to be just over \$7 million. Federal allotments are still up in the air.

"We think they'll be a decrease based on what we're hearing come out of the federal government," Tucker said. "I'm not holding my breath at the federal level," he added later in the meeting.

South Lane has had budget issues in the past including last year when the district joined others

across the state to call for more money from the legislature. The education package that was eventually passed came in at \$8.2 billion but was short of the \$8.4 billion schools had asked for. The state legislature follows a two-year budget cycle.

The district also has to take into account longterm projects including the effort to update its fleet of buses that must be completed by 2025. The Department of Environmental Quality is overseeing the governmental mandate that governs emissions standards. South Lane School District currently has 21 buses out of its 41-bus fleet that do not meet those standards and must be replaced. According to Tucker, the district has budgeted for three new buses in the 2018-2019 school year. Any buses that do not meet the new standards by 2025 will be red-lined and taken out of service.

Cottage Grove City Councilor and school district budget committee member Mike Fleck asked if the buses could be retro-fitted to meet standards.

Tucker said those adjustments come at a cost of approximately \$30,000 per bus. "Now

you're spending \$30,000 on a 20-year-old bus and the transmission starts having problems and the engine and the axle. It wasn't cost effective," he said.

The district is also approximately three years behind on its textbook adoption cycle and continues to work on projects funded by a \$35 million bond passed in 2016. The new Harrison Elementary School is the largest bond project coming in at nearly \$24 million and has a lasting effect on the budget with additional custodial staff budgeted for the facility which is considerably larger than the current Harrison school.

The current budget estimations take into account that no days have been cut from the calendar. Last year, the district cut two days and earlier this year, there was talk of cutting days for the upcoming budget cycle.



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