



**LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY**  
**MIKE STRAIN DVM**  
**COMMISSIONER**



January 1, 2018

To: Parish Presidents / Parish Emergency Managers

From: John Walther  
Director of Emergency Programs

Re: Revised Statute 29:729

The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry reminds you that Revised Statute 29:729 requires an annual plan for the humane evacuation, transport, and temporary sheltering of service animals and household pets from each parish. The act names the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry as the repository for the parish pet plan. This plan is due in our office by March 1<sup>st</sup> each year. We need to prepare for hurricane season, so submission of your pet emergency plan cannot be delayed.

There are many guidelines for safely transporting and housing pets and there are also readily available resources to help parishes develop a workable plan. Animal control directors or animal emergency coordinators may be best suited to advise parishes on transporting pets, shelter set-ups and other needs. Call our office or visit the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry website at [www.ldaf.state.la.us](http://www.ldaf.state.la.us) if you need assistance with your parish pet emergency plan.

Please submit a hard copy of your parish pet emergency plan by March 1<sup>st</sup> to the following address:

Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry  
Office of Animal Health and Food Safety  
Veterinary Health Division  
5825 Florida Blvd., Suite 4000  
Baton Rouge, LA 70806  
or email to:  
[animalplan@ldaf.state.la.us](mailto:animalplan@ldaf.state.la.us)

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John S. Walther".

John S. Walther  
Assistant Commissioner  
Director of Veterinary Health Division  
Director of Emergency Programs  
Office of Animal Health and Food Safety  
Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry