



**American  
Red Cross**

Cape Cod and Islands Chapter

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## *Media Alert* **MEDIA ALERT**

For immediate release

### **Red Cross and Animal Shelter Collaborate to Provide Emergency Shelter and Support Pets and their Owners on Martha's Vineyard**

Hyannis, MA, June 25th, 2010 - The American Red Cross, Cape Cod and Islands Chapter and the Animal Shelter of Martha's Vineyard are pleased to announce that they have formed a collaboration to help provide emergency shelter and support pets and their owners on the Island.

Hurricane season begins in June. Comprehensive family disaster preparedness planning this year includes pets. Except for service animals, for health and safety reasons, Red Cross guidelines exclude bringing other animals inside 'people' disaster shelters.

Based upon experiences in other Red Cross shelters and recent exercises with the Regional Sheltering plan on Cape Cod, the American Red Cross reached out to the Animal Shelter of Martha's Vineyard to find a solution.

The Animal Shelter has signed an agreement with Barnes Shipping & Storage, a local shipping company, to provide a large trailer, when a shelter is opened, where pet owners can bring their crated pets during the emergency.

#### **Owners must have crates or carriers and bring some food and any medication needed for their pets.**

For information about disaster preparedness, in English, Spanish or Portuguese, check out [www.cciiredcross.org](http://www.cciiredcross.org). For more information about going to a shelter on Martha's Vineyard when pets are involved, call: Jim Thomas, American Red Cross Martha's Vineyard Zone Leader at 508.215.4830, or Lisa Hayes, Animal Shelter of MV, 508.627.8662, [www.dukescounty.org/animalshelter](http://www.dukescounty.org/animalshelter).

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