



PLAN FOR YOUR PET

Animals Depend On Us, Care Enough To Plan

If you evacuate your home, **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PETS BEHIND!** You may not be able to find them when you return.

Plan for Pet Disaster Needs

- Identifying shelter. For public health reasons, many emergency shelters cannot accept pets. Find out which motels and hotels in the area you plan to evacuate to allow pets--- well in advance of needing them. There are also a number of guides that list hotels/motels that permit pets and could serve as a starting point. Include your local animal shelter's number in your list of emergency numbers – they might be able to provide information concerning pets during a disaster.
- Take pet food, bottled water, medication, veterinary records, cat litter/pan, can opener, food, dishes, first aid-kit and other supplies with you in case they're not available later. While the sun is still shining, consider packing a "pet survival" kit which can be easily deployed if disaster hits. Visit our kit preparedness page for more information of what to put into your pet preparedness kit.
- Make sure identification tags are up to date and securely fastened to your pet's collar. If possible, attach the address and/or phone number of your evacuation site. If your pet gets lost, his tag is his ticket home. Make sure you have a current photo of your pet for identification purposes.
- Make sure you have a secure pet carrier, leash or harness for your pet so that if your pet panics, he/she can not escape.

Prepare to Shelter Your Pet

- Call your local emergency management office, animal shelter, or animal control office to get advice and information. Ask how pets or large animals, will be sheltered in an emergency and where these location will be established.
- If you are able to return to your home right away, you may need to board your pet. Find out where pet boarding facilities are located. Be sure to research some outside your local area in case local facilities close or reach full capacity.
- Most boarding kennels, veterinarians and animal shelters will need your pet's medical records to make sure all vaccinations are current. You will need to make sure to include copies of all of these documents in your "pet survival" kit along with a photo of your pet.
- Remember that leaving your pet at home alone after a significant disaster can place your animals in great danger! – NEVER leave your pet alone or chained outside following a disaster.



During a Disaster

- Bring your pets inside immediately.
- Have newspapers on hand for sanitary purposes. Feed the animals, moist or canned food so they will need less water to drink.
- Animals have instincts about severe weather changes and will often isolate themselves if they are afraid. Bringing them inside early can stop them from running away. Never leave a pet outside or tied up during a storm.
- Separate dogs and cats. Even if your dogs and cats normally get along, the anxiety of an emergency situation can cause pets to act irrationally. Keep small exoctic pets (hamsters, guinea pigs, etc.) away from cats and dogs.
- In an emergency, you may have to take your birds with you. Talk with your veterernarian or local pet store about special food dispensers that regulate the amount of food a bird is given.
- Make sure that the bird is caged and the cage is covered by a thin cloth or sheet to provide secutiry and filtered light.

After a Disaster

- If after a disaster you have to leave town, take your pets with you. Pets are unlikely to survive on their own.
- In the first few days after the disaster, leash your pets when they go outside. Always maintain close contact. Familiar scents and landmarks may be altered and your pet may become confused and lost. Also, snakes and other dangerous animals may be brought into the area with flood areas. Watch for hazards such as broken glass, downed power lines, metal snags, etc.
- The behavior of your pets may change after an emergency. Normally quiet and friendly pets may become aggressive or defensive. Watch animals closely. Leash dogs and place them in a fenced yeard with access to shelter and water.

Disaster Supplies

- Pet Food (preferably moist canned food so your pets requiries less water)
- Water
- Pet carrier
- Leash easily accessible (if appropriate)
- Pet medication
- Veterinary records
- Toys for your pet (or other comfort items)
- Sanitary Items (to clean up after your pet)