

Keeping Animals Safe Prepare your entire family.

The safety of your family's animals depends on you, especially in an emergency. During severe weather or other emergency situations, if it is unsafe for you to stay in your home, it is also unsafe for your animals. Do not leave your animals behind or use them as an excuse not to evacuate.

DISASTER PLANNING FOR DOMESTIC AND RURAL ANIMALS

Nearly 80% of pets displaced by a storm are never reunited with their owners. If you are ordered to evacuate, take your pet evacuation supplies with you to a safe location. Many shelters/evacuation centers may allow pets; however, as a pet owner, **you must plan ahead**. The best plan is to identify a safe location that allows household pets. **Pet-friendly shelters/evacuation centers and boarding facilities will require proof of vaccinations.** Make sure your pets have had all of their shots within the past 12 months.

Assemble a household pet evacuation kit using the checklist below. Keep in mind that boarding kennels may be without electricity or potable water and have limited personnel and supplies for days to weeks following a disaster. Research your options for evacuating with pets. If you plan to go to a hotel or motel, visit petswelcome.com. Schedule an appointment to talk to your veterinarian about disaster planning. Call your local SPCA, Animal Control, or Humane Society for more information.

After the storm has passed, **be careful allowing animals back outdoors**. Familiar scents and landmarks may be altered and pets could easily be confused and become lost. Downed power lines, other animals, and insects brought in with high water could present dangers to pets.

IDENTIFICATION

Having identification on your animals, including rabies and license tags, if applicable, may help reunite you with your animal(s) in the event you are separated. Identification should provide your name, home address, phone number(s), and the phone number of someone out-of-state with whom you will be in contact during or soon after the disaster/evacuation. Include a photo of you with your animals. If possible, include your veterinarian's name, location, and phone number. **Microchipping your pet is strongly recommended.**



EVACUATION SUPPLIES FOR YOUR HOUSEHOLD PETS

FOR EACH PET: A collapsible cage or airline approved carrier with proper bedding is essential. This can be used for transportation and housing purposes. Owning enough carriers to accommodate your pets facilitates a speedy evacuation and **may mean the difference between the life or death of your pets.**

- Proper identification - collar & rabies tag/license
- Ample food supply (at least 2 weeks)
- Proper identification on all belongings (including emergency contact information if you evacuate)
- Ample water supply (at least 2 weeks)
- Vaccination paperwork and proof of ownership
- Non-electric can opener for wet food
- Photos of you with your pet
- Water/food bowls
- Leash/harness/muzzle to restrain the animal
- Indoor pee pads
- Carrier or crate large enough for your pet to move around and contain a litter box if needed
- Necessary medications
- Newspapers, cat litter, scoop, and plastic trash bags for handling waste
- Specific care instruction
- A comfort item such as a favorite toy or blanket