



PETS AND ANIMALS IN EMERGENCY PLANNING

When preparing for an emergency, be sure to include arrangements for your pets. Your emergency kit should contain provisions including food and water for your pets. Know in advance how you will handle your pets if you need to evacuate. If you must leave them behind, make sure they have access to food, water and shelter. Be familiar with your local and state's procedures for pets during an emergency.

Preparing to Take Your Pets

When an emergency occurs, pets may become frightened. Allow extra time to secure your pet.

- Make a plan for your pet.
- Talk with your vet about any special considerations.
- Ask a neighbor to evacuate or care for your pet in case you are separated.
- Locate pet-friendly hotels or shelters in advance for use in an emergency.
- Make a pet emergency supply kit. Include food, water, medications, leash, carrier, toy and veterinary and insurance documents. Include a photograph of your pet in case you are separated.
- Make sure your pets' identification tags are up to date and secured on their collars. Consider microchipping your pets. If you have advance warning of an emergency, add a tag with your contact information.

What to Do With Your Pets During an Emergency

Bring pets inside immediately and place them in a contained room. Many times, pets run away or hide when they sense danger. Never leave them tied up outside and remember that pets may experience behavioral changes due to stress.

If you are told to evacuate and you can bring your pets:

- Take enough supplies and food for at least three days and a small toy for your pet.
- Make sure the carrier is secure and tagged with your pet's name, description and contact details.
- Be responsible for your pets by cleaning up after them and making sure they are not causing problems.
- Many shelters do not allow pets. You may have to board your pets or place them in a shelter prepared for evacuated pets.

If you are told to evacuate and are ordered not to bring your pets:

- Bring your pets inside. Never leave your pets outside during an emergency.
- Leave plenty of food and water.
- Take the toilet seat off and brace the bathroom door open so they can drink.

- Place a notice on your door that your pets are inside. List the type and number of animals on your property, your name, phone number and the name and phone number of your veterinarian.
- Make arrangements for someone to visit your pet until you can return.

What to Do with Your Pets After an Emergency

- Keep close contact with your pets to make them feel safer.
- Keep your pets on a leash when possible so they stay with you.
- Understand that your pets may have some behavioral changes because of trauma.
- Monitor their behavior and or habits. Document any significant changes to share with the veterinarian.

Where to Find Additional Information

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): <https://www.ready.gov/pets>
- American Red Cross: <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/pet-disaster-preparedness.html>
- American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals: <https://www.aspca.org/pet-care/general-pet-care/disaster-preparedness>
- The Humane Society of the United States: <https://www.americanhumane.org/what-we-do/rescue-and-protect/disaster-response/>
- Ready Army: www.army.mil/ready

It's up to you. Prepare strong. Develop an emergency supply kit with enough supplies for at least three days, make an emergency plan with your family and be informed about what might happen. These fact sheets are intended to supplement predetermined plans and policies. Follow state, local, installation and command guidance related to threats and hazards.

