



Disaster Information for Owners of Dogs and Cats

Before the Disaster

Plan Ahead

- In the event of evacuation, pets may not be allowed in shelters. Make plans for a temporary shelter for your pets. Consult your veterinarian for advice.

Photo and ID

- Dogs and cats should always wear properly fitting collars, personal identification, rabies, and license tags. Keep a current photo of your pet available for identification. You might want to consider a microchip for your pet.

Vaccinations and Medical Records

- Store all vaccination and medical records in a plastic waterproof bag. You may be required to show proof of vaccination if you need to board your pet.

Transportation

- Each animal should have his or her own pet carrier. Familiarize your pet with the carrier before an emergency or disaster.

Leashes and Collars

- Keep a leash handy for each animal. Consider using a harness for extra safety.

Buddy System

- In the event you are not at home when disaster strikes, have a trusted neighbor alerted to check on your pet. Make sure your animal's "buddy" has access to medical records and knows the name and phone number of your veterinarian. It is also advisable to have a waiver on file with your veterinarian that will allow your animal's "buddy" to authorize treatment in your absence.

During the Disaster

- Evacuate your pet early, if possible.
- Take your pet's disaster preparedness kit, including vaccination, medical records, and photo.
- Bring your pet indoors; do not leave pets chained outdoors.

- If you can't take your pet with you prepare a pre-selected room for your pet. Use a room with no windows but adequate ventilation, such as a utility room, bathroom or garage. Do not tie the animals down.
- Leave only dry foods and fresh water in non-spill containers for your pets. If possible, open a faucet to let water drip into a large container or partially fill a bathtub with water.
- Do not leave vitamin treats, these could be fatal if over-eaten.
- House dogs and cats separately, even if they normally get along and live together.

After the Disaster

- Monitor your pets closely and keep them leashed.
- If you find a pet, call animal control or other number set up after the disaster. Isolate the animal found away from your animals.

If You Loose Your Pet

- Visit the shelter in your area at least once a day. Keep a current photo of your pet for easy identification.
- Create and distribute a flyer, with photo, of your pet.
- When you find your pet have your veterinarian examine the animal for signs of illness or injuries.

Disaster Preparedness Kit

- Pet carrier or cage for each pet
- Food/water with non-spill bowls
- Medications and dosing instructions
- Pet first-aid kit
- Vaccination, medical records and current photo
- Your veterinarians information
- Cat litter box and litter
- Newspaper
- Plastic bags for waste disposal
- Paper towels
- Disinfectant
- Leash and collar/harness
- Blankets
- Toys and treats

