



pennsylvania
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY



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PET PREPAREDNESS

If you are like millions of animal owners, your pet is an important member of your household. Being prepared for an emergency means thinking about the needs of all of the members of your family, including pets. Being prepared today for an emergency such as a fire, flood, or tornado, will help you and your animals in the future.

Prepare for the Unexpected

Some of the things you can do to prepare for the unexpected, such as assembling an animal emergency supply kit and developing a pet care buddy system. Whether you decide to stay put in an emergency or evacuate to a safer location, you will need to make plans in advance for your pets.

You May Have to Evacuate

Whether the disaster is a flood or a hazardous spill, you may have to evacuate your home. If you must evacuate, TAKE YOUR PET WITH YOU. If it's not safe for you to stay behind then it's not safe to leave pets behind either. Here's how you can take action now to best care for your furry friends when the unexpected occurs:

- If you plan on going to a shelter, remember that due to local and state health and safety regulations many Red Cross shelters do not allow pets in disaster shelters with the exception of service animals. If you need assistance, call your local Red Cross office or ask a shelter worker when you arrive: they work with partners in the community who can open a pet shelter nearby.
- Contact hotels and motels outside your local area to check their policies on accepting pets and restrictions on number, size and species. Ask if "no pet" policies can be waived in an emergency. Keep a list of "pet friendly" places, including phone numbers, with your disaster supplies.
- Ask friends, relatives or others outside the affected area whether they could shelter your animals. Make a list of boarding facilities and veterinarians who could shelter animals in an emergency. Be sure to include 24-hour phone numbers.
- Ask local animal shelters if they provide emergency shelter or foster care for pets during a disaster. Make a list of boarding facilities and veterinarians who could shelter animals in an emergency; include 24-hour phone numbers. Ask local animal shelters if they provide emergency shelter or foster care for pets during a disaster.
- Help Emergency Workers Help Your Pets. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) recommends using a rescue sticker alert to let people know that pets are inside your home. Make sure it is visible to rescue workers, and that it includes the types and number of pets in your household and your veterinarian's phone number. A free pet sticker is available on line: [ASPCA online order form \(https://secure.aspca.org/take-action/order-your-pet-safety-pack\)](https://secure.aspca.org/take-action/order-your-pet-safety-pack). Allow 6 to 8 weeks for delivery. Your local pet supply store may also sell similar stickers.

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PET EMERGENCY KIT CHECKLIST

Just as you do with your family's emergency supply kit, think first about the basics for survival, particularly food and water. Consider two kits:

1. **Stay Kit** — Everything you and your pets will need to stay where you are.
2. **Grab and Go Kit** — A lightweight, smaller version you can take with you if you and your pets have to get away.

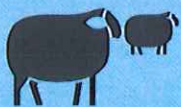
Check your kits regularly to ensure that their contents, especially foods and medicines, are fresh. Use the checklist below to get started on keeping your pet safe!

- ❑ **Food.** Keep at least three days of food in an airtight, waterproof container.
- ❑ **Water.** Store at least three days of water specifically for your pets in addition to water you need for yourself and your family.
- ❑ **Medicines and Medical Records.** Keep an extra supply of medicines your pet takes on a regular basis in a waterproof container.
- ❑ **First Aid Kit.** Talk to your veterinarian about what is most appropriate for your pet emergency medical needs. Most kits should include cotton bandage rolls, bandage tape and scissors; antibiotic ointment; flea and tick prevention; latex gloves, isopropyl alcohol and saline solution. Include a pet first aid reference book.
- ❑ **Collar With ID Tag, Harness or Leash.** Your pet should wear a collar with its rabies tag and identification at all times. Include a backup leash, collar and ID tag in your pet's emergency supply kit. In addition, place copies of your pet's registration information, adoption papers, vaccination documents and medical records in a clean plastic bag or waterproof container and also add them to your kit. You should also consider talking with your veterinarian about permanent identification such as microchipping, and enrolling your pet in a recovery database.
- ❑ **Crate or Other Pet Carrier.** If you need to evacuate plan on taking your pets with you. Keep a sturdy, comfortable crate or carrier ready for transporting your pet. The carrier should be large enough for your pet to stand, turn around and lie down.
- ❑ **Sanitation.** Include pet litter and litter box if appropriate, newspapers, paper towels, plastic trash bags and household chlorine bleach to provide for your pet's sanitation needs. You can use bleach as a disinfectant (dilute nine parts water to one part bleach).

Store your pet preparedness kit along with your family kit.



Plan for what you need if your pet gets injured, lost, or you have to leave.



Remember your Larger Animals Too! If you have large animals such as horses, cattle, sheep, goats or pigs on your property, be sure to prepare before a disaster.



- ❑ **Identification.** Ensure all animals have some form of identification. Include latest immunization records.
- ❑ **Plan Evacuation.** Evacuate animals whenever possible. Map out primary and secondary routes in advance. Don't forget to make available vehicles and trailers needed for transporting and supporting each type of animal.