



Disaster Safety Checklist for Pets



How to Prepare?

Plan to take your pets with you in an evacuation. If it's unsafe for you, it's unsafe for them.

- Know **pet-friendly hotels/motels** along your evacuation route:
 - Call ahead for reservations.
 - Ask if **no-pet policies** can be waived in emergencies.
- Most Red Cross shelters can't accept pets (except service animals) due to health and safety concerns.
- Prepare a list with **phone numbers** of:
 - Friends/relatives who can care for your animals
 - Boarding facilities
 - Animal shelters
 - Veterinarians
- Be prepared to **house your animals separately** if necessary.
- Include pets in **evacuation drills** to familiarize them with carriers.
- Ensure pet **vaccinations are current** and all dogs/cats wear **collars with up-to-date ID**.
- Consider having your pet "**microchipped**" by your veterinarian.
- Many pet shelters require **proof of current vaccinations** to reduce disease spread.

What to Do?

Assemble a **portable pet emergency kit** with:

- Sturdy leashes, harnesses, carriers
- Food, drinking water, bowls, cat litter/pan, manual can opener
- Medications and waterproof-stored copies of medical records
- First aid kit
- Current photos of you with your pet(s)
- Information on feeding schedules, medical conditions, behavior problems
- Veterinarian's name and contact number
- Pet beds and toys, if easily transportable

Store items in sturdy, easily carried containers in an **accessible** place.

As disaster approaches:

- **Act** at the first hint of disaster.
- Call ahead to confirm **emergency shelter** arrangements.
- Ensure all pets wear collars with **up-to-date ID**.
- Check that pet **disaster supplies** are ready for immediate departure.
- Bring **pets inside** for quick retrieval if evacuation is necessary.

Note: Warnings are often issued hours or days in advance.

After the Disaster

Pet **behavior may change** dramatically after a disaster:

- They may become aggressive or defensive.
- Be aware of their well-being.

Protect them from hazards to ensure safety of people and other animals:

- **Watch animals closely** and keep them under direct control, fences and gates may be damaged.
- Pets may become **disoriented**: Disaster may affect scent markers they use to find home.
- Be aware of **hazards** at nose, paw, or hoof level:
 - Debris
 - Spilled chemicals
 - Fertilizers
 - Other substances that might not seem dangerous to humans

Consult your veterinarian if any behavior problems persist.

