



Place notices on all doors advising what pets are in the house and where they are located.

Hang leashes where they can readily be found.

Provide a telephone number or location where you can be reached and the name and number of your vet.

Following a disaster, do not allow your pet outdoors alone for several days. Familiar sights and sounds may be gone and your pet could become confused and lost. Downed power lines and animals roaming at large may pose a threat to your pet's safety.

Do not allow your pet to drink outdoors from any open water supply until you are told by your authorities that the water is safe. Provide your pet with bottled water.

*If you or your pet are bitten by any animal, contact your local animal control and health department immediately.*

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For additional information on pets and disasters try these websites:

Federal Emergency Management Agency  
[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

Virginia Department of Emergency Mgmt.  
[www.vaemergency.com](http://www.vaemergency.com)

The Humane Society of the United States  
[www.hsus.org](http://www.hsus.org)

United Animal Nations  
[www.uan.org](http://www.uan.org)

The National Humane Education Society  
[www.nhes.org](http://www.nhes.org)

American Humane Association  
[www.americanhumane.org](http://www.americanhumane.org)

For information on livestock and disasters try these websites:

[www.hsus.org/face/18733](http://www.hsus.org/face/18733)

[www.training.fema.gov/emweb/is/is1111.asp](http://www.training.fema.gov/emweb/is/is1111.asp)



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\*A Citizen Corps Council



# A Disaster Guide



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## For Pet Owners

An Action Plan to Help Owners Prepare in Advance for Emergency Evacuation of Their Pets



# ARE YOU PREPARED FOR A DISASTER?

If a disaster strikes are you prepared to provide for your pet? Most disasters occur with little or no warning. Planning ahead is the key to survival in the event that you must evacuate your home.

If at all possible, make arrangements to take your pet with you.



*Red Cross shelters cannot accept pets other than assistance or guide dogs because of health and safety reasons.*

**Make** calls now to determine available boarding facilities and their requirements. Check with veterinary facilities for boarding availability. Contact friends or relatives out of the immediate area who might be willing to take in your pets temporarily.

**Under** no circumstances should you leave your pet outside or in an unattended vehicle!



**Have** on hand pet carriers or crates for each pet. They should be large enough for your pet to stand up and turn around in.

**Make** certain that your pet's vaccinations are current, especially for rabies. Have certificates ready to take with you if you must evacuate.

**Make** sure your pet is wearing a properly fitted collar with current license and rabies tags and an identification tag. Have a leash on hand to control your pet.

**Have in readiness the following supplies:**

- Food and water bowls
- Ample dry pet food in waterproof containers
- Ample supply of special medications
- Litter and litter pans for cats
- Newspapers, towels, bags for disposal of pet wastes, cleaners and disinfectants
- A current photo of each pet - This is especially helpful for identifying your pet if you should become separated



**For exotic pets such as reptiles and birds don't forget to consider these items:**

- Large, comfortable carrier to house pet
- Birdcage covers to keep birds calm
- Hot water bottle or other non-electrical heating element to keep pet warm
- Appropriate bedding, food, and water for specific type of animal
- Proper identification on carrier/cage

Leaving your pet at home alone will place your animal at greater risk for injury or loss. However, if you must leave your pets behind, **take the following precautions:**

**Prepare** an area for your pet inside such as bathrooms and utility rooms, well away from windows.

**Do not** confine cats and dogs in the same area, even if normally they are friendly. Keep small animals and birds securely caged.

**Make** sure all pets are wearing well-fitted collars with the proper identification.

**Leave** enough dry food for at least three days in sturdy, non-spillable containers.

**Water** should be left in clean, sturdy containers that will not tip over.

**Birds** must eat daily to survive. Leave their food in dispensers that regulate the amount of food and provide extra water.



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