

PET CARE DURING A DISASTER

- **If possible, take your pets with you if you evacuate.** If it is not safe for you, it is not safe for them. Leaving them may endanger your pets and emergency responders.



- **Plan in advance where you will go if you evacuate,** as pets (other than service animals) are usually not allowed in public shelters.
- **Contact hotels and motels outside your immediate area to check their policies on accepting pets** and restrictions on the number, size, and species. Ask if "no pet" policies could be waived in an emergency.
- **Ask friends, relatives, or others outside your area if they could shelter your animals.** If you have two or more pets, they may be more comfortable if kept together, but be prepared to house them separately.
- **Prepare a list of boarding facilities and veterinarians who could shelter animals in an emergency;** include 24-hour telephone numbers.

Ask local animal shelters if they provide emergency shelter or foster care for pets in a disaster situation. Animal shelters may be overburdened, so this should be your last resort unless you make such arrangements well in advance.

- **Keep a list of "pet friendly" places, including their telephone numbers,**

with other disaster information and supplies. If you have notice of an impending disaster, call ahead for reservations. Hotels and motels with "no-pet" policies may waive these policies during a disaster, particularly if the pet is housed in a carrier. Contact establishments along your evacuation route to see if they will waive "no-pet" rules, and make sure you have adequate facilities and supplies for your pets.

- **Carry pets in a sturdy carrier.** Animals may feel threatened by some disasters, become frightened, and try to run. Being in its own carrier helps reassure a pet.
- **Have identification, collar, leash, and proof of vaccinations for all pets.** At some locations, you may need to provide veterinary records before boarding your pets. If your pet is lost, identification will help officials return it to you.
- **Assemble a portable pet disaster supplies kit.** Keep food, water, and any special pet needs in an easy-to-carry container.
- **Have a current photo of your pets** in case they get lost.

First Aid Kit for Pets

A fully equipped household first aid kit contains almost all of the supplies you may need for your pets. A simple first aid kit for your pets should include these additional items in a waterproof container:

- Latex (or hypoallergenic material) gloves
- Gauze sponges (a variety of sizes)
- Gauze roll, 2-inch width
- Material to make a splint
- Adhesive tape, hypoallergenic
- Non-adherent sterile pads
- Small scissors
- Grooming clippers or safety razor
- Nylon leash
- Towel
- Muzzle
- Compact emergency “blanket” (available in the camping department of many stores)
- Water-based sterile lubricant
- Hydrogen peroxide (3 percent)
- Rubbing alcohol
- Topical antibiotic ointment
- Epsom salts
- Baby-dose syringe or eye dropper
- Sterile eye lubricant
- Sterile saline wash
- Diphenhydramine, if approved by your veterinarian
- Glucose paste or syrup
- Styptic powder or pencil
- Plastic card (such as old credit card) to scrape away stingers
- List of emergency phone numbers including those for your pet’s veterinarian, an after-hours emergency veterinary hospital, and the National Animal Poison Control Center (1-888-426-4435)
- Petroleum jelly
- Penlight
- Clean cloth
- Needle-nose pliers

*For a complete list of items for your pet first aid kit and detailed information on how to provide first aid for your pets, consult *Pet First Aid* by Barbara Mammato, DVM, MPH, a handbook sponsored by the American Red Cross and The Humane Society of the United States.*