

# Community Information For Animal Evacuations

In the event of disasters, you need to take steps to not only protect yourself but your pets as well.

If you need to evacuate, **TAKE YOUR ANIMALS WITH YOU.**

It is simply too dangerous to leave companion animals unattended during natural disasters. The best way to ensure the safety of your pets is to evacuate with them.

**Best evacuation options are to make plans to re-locate with friends, relatives or pet friendly hotels in safe areas away from the disaster.**

If you must use an evacuation shelter, listen for information regarding co-located animal shelters.

You must stay at the human shelter to be allowed to shelter your pet(s) at the co-located animal shelter.

You will not be allowed to keep your companions in the actual human shelter unless they are service animals. Red Cross does not allow pets in their shelters

**If you have a service animal**, ADA law and Red Cross policy support keeping that animal with you during evacuation and sheltering. However, you should keep the official paperwork documenting service animal status available to show to officials during the disaster.

To determine the locations of established pet shelters and/or pet friendly shelters, listen for announcements on your local radio stations [List local stations here] or monitor your town website. The radio may repeat instructions regarding evacuation sites, locations of roadblocks, and a phone number or e mail address to ask for help. You can also monitor the town website and local TV stations. In some areas, you can sign up for a service that will send a text message to your cell phone during emergencies.

**Planning ahead is the key to keeping yourself and your pets safe if disaster strikes.**

Follow these tips to make an emergency plan for your pets.

## **1. Microchip your pets**

Microchip identification is one of the best ways to ensure that you and your pet are reunited if you are separated. Be sure to keep the microchip registration up-to-date, and include at least one emergency number of a friend or relative who resides out of your immediate area.

## **2. Keep a collar and tag on all cats and dogs**

Keep several current phone numbers on your animal's identification tag. Identification on

indoor-only cats is especially important. If your home is damaged during a disaster, they could easily escape

### **3. Plan a pet-friendly place to stay**

Plan for yourself and your animals to shelter with friends or family outside of the disaster zone.

Find out whether friends, relatives, pet-friendly hotels, boarding kennels, or humane societies, stables or racetracks, or private farms outside your immediate area can shelter your animals in the event of a disaster.

Search in advance for out-of-area pet-friendly hotels :

- [www.PetsWelcome.com](http://www.PetsWelcome.com)
- [www.PetFriendlyHotels.com](http://www.PetFriendlyHotels.com)
- [www.PetTravelcenter.com](http://www.PetTravelcenter.com) (US & Canada)

### **4. Have Others Familiar With Your Pets**

Exchange pet information, evacuation plans and house keys with a few trusted neighbors or nearby friends. If you're caught outside evacuation lines when an evacuation order is issued, your neighbors or friends can evacuate your pets for you.

### **5. Prepare an evacuation kit for each animal**

Stock up on the items you may need during a disaster **now** so you do not get caught unprepared. Below are basic items you should include in your pets' disaster kits. Store your disaster kit supplies in an easy-to-grab container.

- Pet ID Information: In a re-sealable plastic bag keep copies of medical information, microchip information, photos of pet with owners(s), proof of vaccinations (especially proof of current rabies vaccination), name/phone number of veterinarian, alternate phone numbers of friends or relatives out of the area.
- Permanent Marker, paper & tape; materials to make temporary ID Tags for pets with current owner name/phone and location information
- One durable animal carrier displaying your name, address, and phone number for each animal in your household.
- Leash, harness or collar for each pet
- Non-spill water and food bowls
- Pet foods; 3-7 day supply, including special diets.
- Water in sanitized non-breakable containers
- Special medications, with instructions. Keep medications well stocked for emergencies.
- Special needs items for exotic pets, such as a heat source, water bottles
- Litter pan and cat litter
- Pet First Aid Kit
- Newspapers, paper towels, handy-wipes, can openers, a flashlight, and blankets

### **Web site Information for Animal Disaster preparedness**

Listed below are just a few of the available websites dedicated to Disaster Preparedness for you and your pets. Take time to visit these sites and the additional sites they link to. There are vast amounts of preparedness information at your disposal online.

1. Facebook – search for CTSART Region 2 Page
2. **www.avma.org** :The American Veterinary Medical Association. The AVMA has disaster preparedness materials to assist veterinarians, animal owners, and others interested in the well-being of animals to prepare for the safety in the event of a disaster. [www.avma.org/collections/disaster/](http://www.avma.org/collections/disaster/) (excellent brochure on animal disaster preparedness).
3. **CTSART.org** The Ct State Animal Response Team: Each Region in our state is training volunteers and purchasing supplies for animal disaster sheltering. The volunteers will most likely be activated, in times of emergency, to assist in sheltering your companions. Visit their web site for more information.
4. **www.aspca.org/pet-care/disaster-preparedness/** The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals offers guidance in Disaster Preparedness for your family pets.
5. **www.fema.gov/plan/prepare/animals** [FEMA - Federal Emergency Management Agency](http://www.fema.gov/plan/prepare/animals)  
FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards. This includes information for pet owners in how to prepare for a disaster.
6. **www.humanesociety.org/issues/animal\_rescue/tips/pet\_disaster\_plan.html** [The Humane Society of the United States](http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/animal_rescue/tips/pet_disaster_plan.html)  
Keep your family and pets safe. The key to survival during a disaster, crisis or emergency is to be as prepared as possible before the storm hits ...
7. **www.ready.gov/america/getakit/pets.html** [ReadyAmerica](http://www.ready.gov/america/getakit/pets.html)  
If you are like millions of animal owners nationwide, your pet is an important member of your household. The likelihood that you and your animals will survive an emergency such as a fire or flood, tornado or terrorist attack depends largely on emergency planning done today ...
8. **www.UAN.org** RedRover, formerly United Animal Nations, provides solid information on animal disaster preparedness.