

Community Information For Animal Evacuations

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

Plan ahead of time for a safe place to take your pets and livestock in the event of an evacuation.

Be sure that your driver's license shows your current street address. Alternatively, you can carry a utility bill that shows your name and the residential address.

You must have a pet carrier, leash or halter/lead, litter pan, food and water bowls, medications, medical records, identification papers, a supply of food and some bottled water, etc., **for each animal**. Always keep them together in an easily reached place. Include photos of yourself with each animal to aid in identification later should you get separated.

If at all possible you should 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 , or humane societies, stables or racetracks, or private farms outside your immediate area can shelter your animals in the event of a disaster. Also, make arrangements with trustworthy neighbors for pet and livestock care if a disaster strikes and you cannot get home in time to evacuate. This person should have access to your animals and be familiar with them.

Red Cross does not allow pets in their shelters.

Listen for information regarding co-located animal shelters. You will not be allowed to keep you companions in the actual human shelter unless they are service animals.

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, call your Municipality ahead of time or listen for announcements.

In case you must leave the area with your pet, you should also **prepare a disaster travel kit that includes:**

Re-sealable plastic bag containing copies of Pet License, microchip, tattoo and/or ID, photos of pet (from all angles and with owner(s), proof of up to date vaccinations and name/phone of their veterinarian (most boarding facilities and emergency animal shelters will require proof of current rabies and annual vaccinations).

- Proper size metal or plastic pet carrier
- Leashes and obedience aids
- Non-spill water and food bowls
- Pet foods, including special diets
- Water in sanitized non-breakable containers
- Special medications, with instructions
- Special needs items for exotic pets, such as a heat source

- Newspapers, paper towels, handy-wipes, can openers, a flashlight, and blankets

For livestock, include:

- Plastic trash barrel with lid, a water bucket
- Leg wraps, fire-resistant non nylon leads and halters, cotton rope
- First aid items, portable radio and a flashlight with extra batteries, a backup generator
- Sharp knife, wire cutters, tarpaulins, lime and bleach
- ID packet in a re-sealable plastic bag, including photos from all sides, microchip, tattoo, registration papers, and a record of each animal's age, sex, breed and color. Place duplicates in travel trailer.
- Medical records and medications or special diets, emergency cash

If you must evacuate and leave your livestock, look at your property and identify the best place for your animals in each type of disaster. Leave enough water for the length of time you expect to be gone, as automatic watering systems will fail if power is lost. Test-run backup generators and make sure they are full of fuel. Also make sure each animal and halter is permanently identified. If a disaster strikes before you can identify your animals by tattoo, microchip, brand or tag, paint or etch hooves, use neckbands or paint your telephone number on the side of the animal before you move

If you are in a flood zone, perhaps you can incorporate an area high enough and accessible enough for the large animals to wait out the storm. Be sure to leave them a two-week supply of feed and water - some large animals survived the storm surge only to die of thirst while surrounded by salt water in 2005 hurricanes. Take small animals with you; evacuate early enough so that you do not have to leave them behind.

Never leave large animals locked in a barn or small animals locked in a home when fire or flood is approaching. If you cannot take them with you, at least give them a chance at survival rather than leaving them trapped. Always close the doors; animals will run back into a building that is familiar but not necessarily safe. If circumstances dictate that you leave animals in a building, **spray paint** a message to rescuers giving the number of animals and what species are confined inside.

Never believe that someone will come to your premises and save your animals. Your friends cannot get past the road block, your neighbors have their own animals to save as well. There is not time for our crews to circulate through every neighborhood. If you can get your own animals to the nearest roadblock, even if you walk them out, we can usually meet you there with transport to shelter. The more animals in your care, the further ahead you should plan to evacuate them.

Listen to the local radio station for emergency broadcasts. We may have the radio repeat instructions regarding evacuation sites, locations of roadblocks, and a phone number to call for help. You can also monitor the local county OES 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.

Adequate Temperature Housing for Animals

Facilities must protect the animal from temperature extremes to provide for its health and well-being. [For citations-see below]

Species Specific Dogs & Cats

Indoor Housing [3.2(a)]

Ambient temperatures must not be below 45° F or above 85° F for more than 4 consecutive hours.

Ambient temperature must not fall below 50° F for the following:

- non-acclimated animals
- breeds that cannot tolerate lower temperatures
- sick, aged, young, and/or infirm animals

Attending veterinarian may exempt above animals from the 50° F temperature requirement **but only down to 45° F.**

When ambient temperature falls below 50° F, dry bedding, solid resting boards or other heat-conserving methods must be provided.