



# Disaster Preparedness for Pets

The best way to protect your family from the effects of a disaster is to have a disaster plan. *If you are a pet owner, that plan must include your pets.* Being prepared can save their lives.



- Make a list of boarding facilities and veterinarians who could shelter animals in an emergency; include 24-hour phone numbers.

## Assemble a Portable Pet Disaster Kit

Whether you are away from home for a day or a week, you'll need essential supplies. Keep items in an accessible place and store them in sturdy containers that can be carried easily (a duffel bag or covered trash containers, for example). Your pet disaster supplies kit should include:

- Medications and medical records (stored in a waterproof container) and a first aid kit.
- Sturdy leashes, harnesses, and/or carriers to transport pets safely and ensure that your animals can't escape.
- Current photos of your pets in case they get lost.
- Food, potable water, bowls, cat litter/pan, and can opener.
- Information on feeding schedules, medical conditions, behavior problems, and the name and number of your veterinarian in case you have to foster or board your pets.
- Pet bed or toys if easily transportable.

In the event of a disaster, you may be forced to leave your home due to damage or environmental hazard. The most important thing you can do to protect your pets is to take them with you. Leaving pets behind, even if you try to create a safe place for them, is likely to result in their being injured, lost, or worse. So prepare now for the day when you and your pets may have to leave your home.

## Have a Safe Place To Take Your Pets

It may be difficult, if not impossible, to find shelter for your animals in the midst of a disaster, so plan ahead. Do not wait until it strikes!

- Make sure each pet and pet carrier has up-to-date identification and contact information.
- Contact hotels and motels outside your local area to check their policies on accepting pets and restrictions on number, size and species. Ask if "no pet" policies could be waived in an emergency. Keep a list of "pet friendly" places, including phone numbers, with your other disaster information and supplies. If you are alerted to an impending disaster, call ahead for reservations.
- Ask friends, relatives or others outside the affected area whether they could shelter your animals. If you have more than one pet, they may be more comfortable if kept together, but be prepared to house them separately.



**For more information contact your local Humane Society or visit: [www.hsus.org](http://www.hsus.org)**