

What to Do for Pets in Emergencies

Emergency planning should include all members of the family, including pets. If you must evacuate do not leave your animals behind. Evacuate them to a prearranged safe location if they cannot stay with you during the evacuation period. If you have not pre-planned an evacuation location for your pet, take them with you to the Red Cross shelter. An animal services representative will be available (or on call) at that location to take the animal to an approved animal sheltering facility. (Remember, pets are not allowed in Red Cross shelters.) It may be difficult, if not impossible, to find shelter for your animals in the midst of a disaster, so plan ahead. You should:



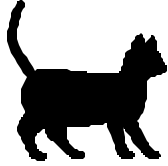
- ☑ Ask friends or relatives outside the affected area if they can shelter your animals (and you) should you have to evacuate. If you have more than one pet, they will be more comfortable if they are kept together, but be prepared to house them separately.
- ☑ Contact hotels and motels outside your immediate area to check policies on accepting pets and their restrictions on number, size and species. Ask if “NO PET” policies could be waived in an emergency. Keep a list of these pet friendly locations including phone numbers with your portable pet disaster supplies kit.
- ☑ If you evacuate with your pet, don’t forget to prepare your pet and to bring your portable pet disaster supplies kit (see below). Make sure your dogs and cats are wearing collars that are securely fastened and include up-to-date information. Attach the phone number and location of your temporary shelter (cell phone number too), or a phone number of a friend or relative outside of the disaster area who can be contacted if your pet(s) become lost. Adhesive tape or duct tape with this information can be attached to your pet’s collar if needed.

Prepare portable pet disaster supplies kit with the following:

- ☑ medications and medical/vaccination records stored in a water proof container.
- ☑ first aid kit.

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- ☑ sturdy leashes, harnesses and carriers for each of your pets. Life gets very strange and stressful for your pets during this time, and they will react differently, so please transport them in an airline-type carrier at all times for their safety and to ensure that they can't escape and be left behind.



- ☑ **current** photos of your pets in case they get lost. A member of the "human" family along with the pet in the photo is always a plus in establishing ownership if the animal gets lost.
- ☑ food (especially if your pet is on a special diet), bottled water, disposable bowls, cat litter/pan (disposable cooking pans work great for this) and a can opener.
- ☑ pet beds and toys, if easily transportable. It is always good for your pets to have a familiar toy to take with them to a shelter as a reminder of home.
- ☑ written information on feeding schedules/amounts, medical conditions, behavior problems, and the name/address and phone number of your veterinarian.

For more information on emergency preparedness for your pets, call **Charles County Animal Control Services** at 301-609-3425, 301-932-1713 or 1-800-903-1992, or visit these web sites: www.charlescounty.org/es/animalcontrol or www.hsus.org. (Go to the disaster preparedness areas of the web sites for brochures and information.)

Check on Relatives and Neighbors



During emergencies, check to see how your relatives are coping, especially senior citizens and persons with disabilities. If possible, consider helping them plan or locate resources where they can obtain assistance.

Call the **Charles County Department of Community Services Aging and Community Centers Division** at 301-934-9305 or 301-

870-3388, ext. 5126 for more information.