



The Office Depot Foundation and the Humane Society of the United States urge everyone to protect themselves and their pets. Here are sources of information and guidance for evacuation planning:

[The Humane Society Disaster Information Center](#)

[A Pet Preparedness Brochure for all disaster situations](#)

[Guidance for Evacuation Planning, Take Your Pet!](#)

If you reside in an area prone to certain seasonal disasters, such as flooding or hurricanes that might require evacuation, create a kit to keep in your car.

In your pet disaster kit, you should include:

- **Food and water for at least five days** for each pet, bowls and a manual can opener if you are packing canned pet food.
- **Medications and medical records** stored in a waterproof container and a first aid kit. A pet first aid book is also good to include.
- **Cat litter box, litter**, garbage bags to collect all pets' waste, and litter scoop.
- **Sturdy leashes, harnesses, and carriers** to transport pets safely and to ensure that your pets can't escape. Carriers should be large enough for the animal to stand comfortably, turn around and lie down. Your pet may have to stay in the carrier for hours at a time while you are away from home. Be sure to have a secure cage with no loose objects inside it to accommodate smaller pets. These may require blankets or towels for bedding and warmth, and other special items.
- **Current photos and descriptions** of your pets to help others identify them in case you and your pets become separated and to prove that they are yours.
- **Pet beds and toys**, if you can easily take them, to reduce stress.
- **Information about your pets'** feeding schedules, medical conditions, behavior problems, and the name and number of your veterinarian in case you have to board your pets or place them in foster care.

Other useful items include newspapers, paper towels, plastic trash bags, grooming items and household bleach.

Find a Safe Place Ahead of Time

Because evacuation shelters generally don't accept pets (except for service animals), you must plan ahead to make certain your family and pets will have a safe place to stay. Don't wait until disaster strikes to do your research.

- Contact hotels and motels outside your immediate area to check policies on accepting pets. Ask about any restrictions on number, size and species. Inquire if the "no pet" policies would be waived in an emergency. Make a list of animal-friendly places and keep it handy. Call ahead for a reservation as soon as you think you might have to leave your home.
- Check with friends, relatives or others outside your immediate area. Ask if they would be able to shelter you and your animals or just your animals, if necessary. If you have more than one pet, you may need to house them at separate locations.
- Make a list of boarding facilities and veterinary offices that might be able to shelter animals in emergencies; include 24-hour telephone numbers.
- Ask your local animal shelter if it provides foster care or shelter for pets in an emergency. This should be your last resort, as shelters have limited resources and are likely to be stretched to their limits during an emergency.