



FACT SHEET

The family pet can be overlooked until the final frantic moments before you evacuate ahead of a hurricane or other emergency, but a little planning can ensure pet safety and care during an evacuation.

Taking the pet along is the most important thing individuals or families can do for their animals during an evacuation. Pets that are left behind can be injured, lost, or killed, especially during an event such as a hurricane, say officials of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Pet owners should put a disaster evacuation plan in place for animals before hurricanes or other disasters threaten.

Many shelters do not allow pets, except for service animals, so it is important to identify in advance those that do. Plan ahead to ensure your family and pets will have a safe place to stay.

Here are some other tips for pet owners:

- Leave early if you live in an area that may be evacuated.
- Pets should wear up-to-date identification and, if possible, be micro-chipped.
- Take your animal's food with you. (Stressed animals may experience intestinal problems, but using the same food will help reduce the trouble.)
- Carry copies of pets' vaccinations, medical records, and prescriptions with you if you evacuate.
- Keep a pet carrier and leash close at hand.

Additional information can be found at:

Humane Society of the United States

- **Disaster Planning for Pets**
http://www.hsus.org/hsus_field/hsus_disaster_center/resources/disaster_preparedness_for_pets.html
- **Disaster Planning for Horses**
http://www.hsus.org/hsus_field/hsus_disaster_center/resources/disaster_preparedness_for_horses.html

- **Disaster Planning for Livestock**
http://www.hsus.org/hsus_field/hsus_disaster_center/resources/disaster_preparedness_for_livestock.html
- **Disaster Planning for Animal Facilities**
http://www.hsus.org/hsus_field/hsus_disaster_center/resources/hsus_disaster_planning_manual_for_animals.html

State of Pennsylvania Health Department

- **Tips for Planning for Your Pet**
<http://www.dsf.health.state.pa.us/health/cwp/view.asp?a=333&q=233810>
- **Tips on What to do for Your Pet After a Disaster**
<http://www.dsf.health.state.pa.us/health/cwp/view.asp?a=333&q=233859>
- **Tips for a Barnyard Animal Rescue Plan**
<http://www.dsf.health.state.pa.us/health/cwp/view.asp?a=333&q=234650>
- **Tips for Service Animals and Pet Owners**
<http://www.dsf.health.state.pa.us/health/cwp/view.asp?a=333&q=233838>