

DISASTER TIPS FOR YOUR PETS.....Be Prepared....

Please have a Disaster Plan and a kit ready in case of fire, tornado, chemical spill, snow storms, etc... it could keep you from getting to your animals - **it CAN happen here, and it CAN happen to YOU!**

Disaster Preparedness:

Planning ahead is the key to keeping yourself and your companion animals safe during a disaster. Follow these tips to reduce the risk to your companion animals during disasters:



Rescued dog after Hurricane Katrina in Intake Area of HSUS Emergency Shelter

Place an emergency decal on your front window or door

If disaster strikes while you are not home, this decal will alert rescuers of the animals inside. [Order](#) an emergency window decal online at the United Animal Nations website.

Microchip your pets

[Microchip identification](#) is one of the best ways to ensure that you and your pet are reunited if you are separated. Be sure to keep the microchip registration up-to-date, and include at least one emergency number of a friend or relative who resides out of your immediate area.

Keep a collar and tag on all cats and dogs

Keep several current phone numbers on your animal's identification tag. Identification on indoor-only cats is especially important. If your home is damaged during a disaster, they could easily escape.

Use the buddy system

Exchange pet information, evacuation plans and house keys with a few trusted neighbors or nearby friends. If you're caught outside evacuation lines when an evacuation order is issued, your neighbors or friends can evacuate your pets for you.

Prepare an emergency kit for each animal

Include copies of your pet's vaccinations, photographs, emergency contact references, temporary identification (see below), pet first aid kit, food, water and important supplies in an easy-to-grab container.

Carry photos of you and your pets

If you are separated, photographs can prove that you are the rightful caregiver of your pets. Clear photographs of your pets, especially if they include identifying marks, can be helpful to create "lost pet" fliers.

Identify emergency veterinary facilities outside of your immediate area

If a disaster has affected your community, emergency veterinary facilities may be closed. Pets may become injured or ill during the disaster, so make sure you know how to access other emergency facilities. You can also check with your veterinarian to find out if they have an emergency plan that includes setting up in an alternate, emergency facility.

Store a week's supply of fresh food

Keeping your pets' diet consistent during a time of stress is important. Make sure your food supply is always fresh, and store it in a water-tight container. If you use canned food, keep a spare can opener with your emergency supplies.

Store a week's supply of fresh water

If officials declare your household water unfit to drink, it's also unsafe for your pets. Follow American Red Cross guidelines for storing emergency water for your family and your pets.

Plan for temporary confinement

Physical structures, like walls, fences and barns may be destroyed during a disaster. Have a plan for keeping your animal safely confined. You may need a tie-out, crate or kennel.

Comfort your animals

Your animals will appreciate your calm presence and soft, comforting voice if they are stressed following a disaster or while evacuated, and you may find it comforting to spend time with them, too. Some animals, especially cats, may be too scared to be comforted. Interact with them on their terms. Some animals may find toys, especially long-lasting chew toys, comforting.

Know where to search for lost animals

When animals become lost during a disaster, they often end up at a local shelter. Keep handy the locations of shelters in your community and nearby.