Disaster Preparedness for Pets

Are You Ready?

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Agenda

- You and Your Pets
- Types of emergencies and disasters
  - Personal vs Local vs Regional
  - Advanced Warning vs Sudden and Unexpected
- Before: Assessment & Preparation
- During: Shelter-in-place or Evacuate?
- After: Evaluate and replenish supplies
- Resources
You and Your Pet(s)

How many of you have pets?
You and Your Pet(s)

Where are they?

Crated?

Trailer?

Inside?

Outside?
Panicked dogs that were left caged by an owner who fled rising floodwaters are rescued by the volunteer rescuer Ryan Nichols of Longview, Texas, in Leland, North Carolina, on September 16, 2018.     Jonathan Drake / Reuters
You and Your Pet(s)

How often do you care for them?

Exercise?  
Attention?  
Medicine?  
Food/Water?  
Groom?  
Walk?  
Clean Litter/Change Pee Pad/Muck
What types of emergencies do you need to prepare for?

- How much warning do you have?
- How many people will be impacted?

**Natural**
- Hurricane
- Flood
- Wildfire
- Earthquake
- Blizzard

**Technological**
- Bridge collapse
- Oil spill
- Chemical explosion

**Human-Made**
- Car accident
- Fire
- Terrorism
- Epidemic
Carla Ramm checks on her cat Jackjack after they were loaded onto a boat during their rescue from rising floodwaters in Leland, North Carolina, on September 16, 2018.

Jonathan Drake / Reuters
What unexpected events could prevent you from coming home?

- Motor vehicle accident
- Travel delay
- Weather
- Fire
- Train derailment
- Flood/Hurricane
- Other?
Who would notice you “missing”?

- Kids?
- Spouse?
- Neighbor?
- Friend?
- Mailman?

How long would it take?

- Hours?
- Days?
- Longer?
How long could your pets possibly go without you?

- Constant water source?
- Self feeder?
- Doggie door?
- Multiple litter boxes/pee pads?
- Out in the pasture?
Who would care for them in your absence?
What if you are alone and unconscious?

What information is readily available to alert someone that your pet(s) need to be cared for?

Wallet Card

My name, Address & Phone #: ____________________________

____________________________________________________

About My Pet(s): Dog/Cat/Other; Name, Age & Special Needs:

____________________________________________________

My Vet’s Name & Telephone #: ___________________________

By signing this card, I fully understand and accept that I will be responsible for any medical, boarding, care, etc. expenses provided to my animal(s), until such time as I or the designated person named.

Signature: ____________________________ Date: ___________
Before Disaster Strikes: Assessment & Preparation

- Create an Evacuation Go-Kit
- Make a plan for you and your pet(s)
- Keep local kennel and pet friendly hotel information handy
- Know your local emergency numbers
- Know your local evacuation routes
- Current photo of you with your pet(s)
- Test your plan
- Encourage others to do the same!!!!!!
Members of Coast Guard Shallow-Water Response Boat Team 3 help stranded pets near Riegelwood, North Carolina, on September 16, 2018.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Loumania Stewart / U.S. Coast Guard / Reuters

Preparing a “Go Kit”... For Yourself

- Do you have what you need to get out of harm’s way?

Do you have a go-bag for yourself? [https://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Go-Bag](https://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Go-Bag)
Preparing a “Go Kit”... For EACH Pet

➡️ Do you have a go-bag for your pet(s)?
Before Disaster Strikes: Preparation

Do you have a go-kit for your pets?

Cat, Dog & Horse Evacuation Checklists

Keep supplies fresh!
A man moves his horses from rising water in Lumberton, North Carolina, on September 16, 2018. Gerry Broome / AP
WATCH Your Pets! Their behavior may have changed.

Leash pets when outdoors for a few days. The terrain and scents may have changed.

Secure fencing and enclosures before allowing animals out unattended.

Watch for new dangers, like misplaced wildlife.
During A Disaster: Shelter-In-Place or Evacuate?
Shelter-In-Place

- Go Kit x # Occupants
- Comforts of home
  - Electricity?
  - Running Water?
  - Heat?
  - Pets’ home turf and comfort
  - More Storage/Supplies
- Self-Powered Radio
- Community Alerts
  - Evacuation Becomes Mandatory
- Muster Point?
Evacuation

- Where are:
  - Pet-Friendly Hotels
  - Pet-Friendly Friends and Family
  - Familiar Kennel / Pet-Sitter
  - Local temporary shelter(s)?
- Does YOUR town accept pets at the shelter?
- What routes will you take out of the area?
- Will you have access to your vet?

- Update and Post Window Card
- Notify Family, Friends, Neighbors
Cages hold rescued pets in the Holshouser Building at the North Carolina State Fairgrounds in Raleigh, North Carolina, on September 17, 2018. When the Carteret County shelter was damaged by Tropical Storm Florence and had to be evacuated, several animal-rescue organizations in the Raleigh area volunteered to take the animals in. Dozens of volunteers, including veterinarians, vet students from the nearby North Carolina State University Veterinary School, and animal lovers from the community, came to help process, examine, console, and care for the animals. Eighty-two animals were taken in: 42 dogs and 40 cats. The animals will be distributed to various animal-rescue groups in the Raleigh area, where they will then be made available for adoption.

Chris Seward / AP

Emergency Preparedness is one of the most important things you can do for your pets. Responsible pet ownership means having a plan in place for your pets in case of a disaster. Please plan ahead.

Be prepared to take your pet with you!

If an area has been deemed unsafe for people, it’s also unsafe for your pets. Structural damage to homes as well as contaminated food and water pose great risks to a pet left alone during a disaster. Even if you only plan on leaving for a few hours, take your pets with you.

Often, people are away from their homes longer than expected. Some things to keep in mind are:

- Find possible places to evacuate ahead of time. Most evacuation shelters do not accept animals and you may want to consider a pet-friendly motel or hotel of a friend or relative as an evacuation site. Boarding facilities and local animal shelters may also be an option. Always have a recent photo of your pet with you in case you are separated. Photos are an invaluable tool when locating a missing pet.
- Make sure your pets always have up-to-date identification. You may want to include contact information for someone outside your area who can be reached in case phone services are down in the disaster area. Have your pet micro-chipped and keep the registration information up-to-date.
- When you leave your home, leave a large message for rescuers that people and pets have left the home. You may want to paint on a piece of wood "At people/animals safe" and attach it to a visible location on your home. This saves rescuers valuable time.

Important things to have when evacuating with your pet:

- All pertinent records and medical information for your pet. Information such as medical history, licensing, and owner and alternate contact information should be included. It’s a good idea to place copies of this info in a sealed plastic bag (zip top). Keep this taped on the inside of the carrier at all times. You will not waste valuable time looking for these important items if evacuated.
- Food, water, and bowls. Make sure you set aside some bottled water for your pet, as well as any special food, dietary, or medical needs your pet may require. It’s a good idea to also bring newspaper, handy wipes for cleaning and a manual can opener for preparation purposes.
- A carrier large enough to accommodate your cat, as well as a small litter box and food and water. Your cat may have to spend a considerable amount of time in the carrier and should have all the comforts of home.

If you’re not home when an evacuation is ordered:

Ensure you have a reliable neighbor who can evacuate your pet for you. Have a plan set up with them for such an event to avoid confusion. A pet-sitting or dog walking service may also be an option for this type of arrangement. Make sure you have a meeting spot outside of the affected area to reclaim your pet.

Sometimes, you simply cannot take your pet:

- Place your pet in the most secure place in the house. High ground is best when leaving a pet behind, as they will be able to avoid any flooding that may occur.
- Ensure you provide your pet with more than enough food and water. You may want to leave an entire bag of food (or more) out in case you cannot return for some time. Setting up a pan or bowl with a slow drip from a faucet can ensure your pet has a reliable source of water. Also, fill a bathtub or sinks with water before you leave. Leave toilet bowl lids open.
- Leave a sign outside your home, allowing rescuers to readily identify your home as one with animals inside. Rescuers are often granted access to disaster areas much sooner than residents and can help to reunite you and your pet that much sooner.

Be prepared to take your pet with you!

Animal Emergency Hospitals

Staffed 24 hours/day, 7 days a week

Animerge
(908) 707-9077
21 Route 206
Raritan, NJ

Red Bank Veterinary Hospital
(908) 392-3161
210 Route 206
Hillsborough, NJ

This guide has been prepared for you by the Somerset County Animal Response Team (CART) and Somerset County Office of Emergency Management

If you would like to become a volunteer for the Somerset County CART, please contact

The Somerset County Office of Emergency Management at (908) 725-5070.
Window Card

How do first responders know whether you have evacuated WITH or WITHOUT your pets?

In the event you are not home when disaster strikes, the window card alerts first responders that you may have animals inside.
After An Emergency Event: Evaluate and Replenish

Ask yourself:
- How well-prepared were you?
  - For yourself?
  - For your pets?
  - Did you have sufficient supplies?
- What would you have done differently?
- What will make you better prepared next time?

Replenish/Replace supplies and Refresh Go Kits
Additional NJ Animal Resources

- [www.co.somerset.nj.us/cart](http://www.co.somerset.nj.us/cart)
- [https://www.animalemergency.nj.gov/agriculture/animalemergency/cart/](https://www.animalemergency.nj.gov/agriculture/animalemergency/cart/)
- [www.ready.gov/animals](http://www.ready.gov/animals)
- [www.facebook.com/NJEASE](http://www.facebook.com/NJEASE)
- [www.twitter.com/NJEASE_AnEvac](http://www.twitter.com/NJEASE_AnEvac)
SOMERSET CART RESOURCES
www.co.somerset.nj.us/cart

- Wallet Card
- Evacuation Checklists
  - Cat, Dog, Horse
- Pet Disaster Planning Guide
- Window Card
- Workshops: Barn Fire Awareness
What is CART? How Can You Get Involved?

CART

A County Animal Response Team (CART) is a group of volunteers, government agencies, and businesses, with resources & personnel to respond to animal issues in disasters. Based on FEMA’s principles & organized under each County OEM, CART plans, collaborates, and trains with other responders to provide a coordinated disaster response.

Join a CART

Your county’s CART needs volunteers like you! Please contact the person in your county if you are willing to learn, train and exercise for emergency preparedness activities and properly take care of animals during a disaster.

Training

Being a trained CART member allows you to become a recognized responder. Required FEMA online courses: (http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/crslist.asp)

- IS-100 Introduction to Incident Command System I-100
- IS-700 National Incident Management System (NIMS) An Introduction
- IS-10 Animals in Disaster - Module A: Awareness and Preparedness
- IS-11 Animals in Disaster - Module B: Community Planning
- IS-111 Livestock in Disaster
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Questions?

Thank you!