

Looking After Your Pets

Your family pets will need looking after during an emergency evacuation. Following are tips for planning:

Before evacuation:

If you have to evacuate to a local public emergency shelter, a hotel or go to family or friends, ask if you can take your pets with you.

- If your pets aren't allowed, ask friends, family or a veterinarian located outside the emergency zone to take care of them. Or arrange to leave them at a kennel or shelter.
- If you can't find anyone to take your pets, you may have to leave them behind as a last resort. Don't leave pets outside. Choose a room that's easy to clean, as high up in the house as possible.
- Buy large self-dispensing food and water containers and leave enough food and water for at least three days. Or, you can leave an open bag of pet food and leave a slight stream of water running in a bathroom or utility room sink.

If you're leaving your pets with someone, make sure you provide adequate food, supplies (like kitty litter) and any medication they may need for a minimum of three days.

Make sure your pets have proper collars, any required licence or tags and an ID tag with your name, address and phone number. Also make sure you have the documents that show your pets have all required shots (rabies, distemper), particularly if you're using an animal shelter or kennel.

Leave a sign that's easily visible on a door or window to tell emergency responders there are pets inside.

After evacuation:

When you return home, keep an eye on pets because:

- familiar scents and landmarks will have altered and they may be confused
- downed power lines may be a hazard
- wild animals disrupted by flood waters may be dangerous

Keep your pets leashed or locked up until they seem calm and their personalities have returned to normal.

For more details on pet care, contact your veterinarian, humane society or emergency office.