

How You Can Help Your Pet in an Emergency

How common are hurricanes in your area? Hurricanes can wreck havoc on the lives of your family & pets. After the storm, floods often follow creating a different set of problems. Expect the unexpected, but be prepared to protect your family and your treasured pet from the worst of a hurricane or flood.

Take protective measures before a hurricane or flood

The key to survival is to be well prepared. You and your pet will be safer with plans in place and with your Pet Disaster Survival Kit. If you don't have time to evacuate, follow these guidelines:

HURRICANE SURVIVAL GUIDE

- Gather your family & pets inside, away from windows & glass doors.
- Secure your property, with particular attention to windows & shutters.
- Take refuge in a small interior room or hallway on the lowest level.
- Lie on the floor under a table or another sturdy object.
- Stay up to date on hurricane progress, following news on TV or radio.

FLOOD SURVIVAL GUIDE

- Gather family & pets inside on the uppermost level
- Turn off utilities at the main switches & disconnect electrical appliances
- If standing in water, do not touch electrical equipment
- Keep your pet leashed & locate your Pet Disaster Survival Kit
- If you are told to evacuate, find shelter where you are immediately.

Secure Your Pet's Safety During a hurricane or Flood—Your pet Is Counting On you!

Emergency Preparedness Checklist

- Prepare Disaster Kits for humans & your pets.
- Provide a list of pet-friendly resources & include addresses & telephone numbers.
 - Animal Shelters
 - Human Shelters
 - Motels/Hotels
 - Veterinarian
 - Local Humane Society
 - Family & Friends
- Medical history, immunization records, photographs
- Any medications
- Extra collar with all tags & leashes
- Crate or carrier
- Bedding & toys
- Large plastic bags
- Paper towels
- Disinfectant spray
- Litter & Litter box, if needed
- Clean Water

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What you Need to Know About Protecting Your Pet During a Hurricane or Flood



Prepare Your Pet Disaster Survival Kit

Now is the time to create your Pet Disaster Survival Kit. Add it to your family's emergency survival kit if you have one, or take this time to create one of each. Pack a duffel bag with these pet survival essentials:

Food & Water: Have at least 3 days of food & water for pets, along with bowls

Medical Records & Medications: Get a current medical history for your pet & pack regular medications in a water-proof container. Make certain your pet's immunizations are up to date.

Identification: Keep tags up to date along with vaccinations. Include extra tags, a collar & leash. Include a photograph of your pet & your address.

Crate or Carrier: If you need to evacuate, a crate or carrier may be safer & more comfortable for your pet. It can also serve as your pet's bed. Take your pet's bedding to make the crate more comfortable, & include your pet's favorite toys.

Sanitary Needs: If you use pet litter, include a bag & a litter box. Add towels, spray disinfectant & a small bottle of bleach to purify water if necessary. Plastic garbage bags are essential for cleaning up after your pet.



IF YOU MUST EVACUATE, TAKE YOUR PETS!

If you are forced to evacuate your home. Do not leave your pets behind. If it's not safe for you to remain at home during a disaster, it's not safe for your pet. Animals left behind in a disaster are not likely to survive on their own. Abandoned pets can easily be injured or lost, or become a victim of exposure, starvation, contaminated water or food. Leaving a pet chained indoors or out during a disaster is not safe!

Identify shelters where pets are welcome. Keep phone numbers handy for these shelters, as well as pet-friendly motels or hotels in your area, in case of evacuation. Consider family or friends willing to take in you & your pets in an emergency.

Don't Take Chances With Your Pet's Life!

During a hurricane or flood, don't leave them behind for even a moment. Pets can become alarmed by bad weather & strange conditions, & may run away & hide.

Your pet is counting on you for protection!

Leave as soon as you know about an emergency evacuation alert! The longer you wait the greater risk to the safety of you, your family, & your pet.

After a Hurricane or a Flood...

Be patient with your pet after a traumatic experience. Your pet's behavior may change after distress during an emergency. Because you may not know how your pet will behave, keep them leashed, in a fenced yard or inside. Be sure to have food, water, & a comfortable "bed" available to give pets a sense of home.

Educate yourself on what types of emergencies are likely to affect your region as well as emergency plans that have been established by your state & local government. Adapt new information into your **Pet Emergency Survival Kit**. Because it's always smart to be prepared for the unexpected!

