

Take Your Pets With You

The single most important thing you can do to protect your pets is to take them with you when you evacuate. Even if you plan to return in a few hours, take them along for the ride. Too often, animal owners intend to return home only to be deterred by the forces of nature. Animals left behind in a disaster can easily be injured, lost or killed. Animals left inside your home can escape through storm-damaged areas, such as broken windows. Animals turned loose to fend for themselves are likely to become victims of exposure, starvation, predators, contaminated food or water, or accidents. Leaving dogs tied or chained outside in a disaster is a death sentence.

If You Don't Evacuate, Shelter in Place

If your family and pets must wait out a disaster at home, identify a safe area of your home where you can all stay together. Be sure to close your windows and doors, stay inside, and follow the instructions from your local emergency management office.

Bring your pets indoors as soon as local authorities say there is an imminent problem. Keep pets under your direct control; if you have to evacuate, you will not have to spend time trying to find them. Keep dogs on leashes and cats in carriers, and make sure they are wearing identification.

If you have a room you can designate as a "safe room," put your emergency supplies in that room in advance, including your pet crates and supplies. Have any medications and a supply of pet food and water inside watertight containers, along with your other emergency supplies. If there is an open fireplace, vent, pet door, or similar opening in the house, close it off with plastic sheeting and strong tape.

For Disaster Preparedness Information:

www.EVACUATEMYPET.com

www.VCAR.us



DISASTER PLANNING For COMPANION ANIMALS



**Ventura County
Animal Regulation Department
(805) 388-4341**

1-888-223-PETS (7387)

Website: www.vcar.us

DISASTER PHONE: 1-866-387-8911

ACTIVATED ONLY DURING EMERGENCIES

**SHELTER ADDRESS;
600 AVIATION DRIVE, CAMARILLO**

*As the fire roars near, or the waters rise deep
You can hear their loud cries, You can hear them all weep.*

*You feed them each day, you told them to stay,
And now when they need you, don't turn them away.*

*When you vowed to love, when you vowed to care
You promised to sacrifice, and vowed to prepare.*

*Remember in times of trouble and strife
You are responsible for more than one life.*

You need to plan, to think and prepare

For all those who need you

Who depend on your care.

-Joe E Jumpsohi



Disaster Checklist for Pets

Every member of your family should know what he or she needs to take when you evacuate. You also need to pre-prepare supplies for your animals. Stock up on non-perishables well ahead of time, and have everything ready to go at a moment's notice. Keep everything accessible, stored in sturdy containers (duffel bags, covered trash containers, etc.) that can be carried easily

Don't Forget ID

Your animals should be wearing up-to-date identification at all times. This includes adding your current cell phone number to all I.D. tags. It is a good idea to include the phone number of a friend or relative outside your immediate area—if your animal is lost, you'll want to provide a number on the tag that will be answered even if you're out of your home. Have all animals micro-chipped as a means of permanent identification and be sure that the registry information is current and updated frequently.

An Animal Disaster Kit Should Include:

- Food and water for at least five days for each animal, bowls and a manual can opener if you are packing canned food.
- Leash, collar, and/or harness for each animal.
- Collapsible cage or airline approved carrier should also be available for each pet, bedded properly, for transportation and housing purposes - owning **enough carriers to accommodate your pets** facilitates a speedy evacuation and may mean the difference between the life or death of your pet.
- Familiarize your animals with evacuation procedures and cages/carriers. Take the cage/carrier out several times a year and put dog or cat treats inside with blankets and toys. By doing this, you hope to reinforce positive feelings associated with the animal carrier.

- Cat carriers should be large enough to hold a small litter pan and two small dishes and still allow your cat enough room to lie down comfortably and to stand to use the litter pan.
- Dog kennels or collapsible cages should be large enough to hold two no-spill bowls and still allow enough room for your dog to stand, turn around and lie down comfortably.
- For added assurance, clearly label each carrier with your identification and contact information .
- Medications and medical records stored in a waterproof container along with a pet first aid kit and first aid book .
- Cat litter box, litter, garbage bags to collect all pets' waste, and litter scoop.
- Be sure to have a secure cage with no loose objects inside it to accommodate smaller pets. These may require blankets or towels for bedding and warmth, and other special items.
- Current photos and descriptions of your pets to help others identify them in case you and your pets become separated and to prove that they are yours.
- Pet beds and toys, if you can easily take them, to reduce stress.
- Information about your pets' feeding schedules, medical conditions, behavior problems, and the name and number of your veterinarian in case you have to board your pets or place them in foster care.
- Other useful items include newspapers, paper towels, plastic trash bags, towels, blankets, flea/tick products, grooming items and household bleach for disinfecting.

Identify a Safe Location Ahead of Time

- Don't wait until disaster strikes to do your research.
- Contact hotels and motels outside your immediate area to check policies on accepting pets. Ask about any restrictions on number, size and species.
- Check with friends, relatives or others outside your immediate area. Ask if they would be able to shelter you and your animals or just your animals, if necessary. If you have more than one pet, you may need to house them at separate locations.
- Make a list of boarding facilities and veterinary offices that might be able to shelter animals in emergencies and include their 24-hour telephone numbers.
- The Department of Animal Regulation and the Humane Society of Ventura County both provide housing and care of all types of animals during emergencies and disasters at a variety of locations. There is never a charge for caring for animals during a disaster. Call immediately if you need assistance or visit us on the web at www.vcar.us for additional information, ideas or disaster evacuation locations.

In Case You Are Not Home

- Make arrangements well in advance for a trusted neighbor to take your pets and meet you at a specified location. Be sure the person is comfortable with your pets and your pets are familiar with them and has a key to your home.
- Make sure the neighbor knows your pets' whereabouts and habits, so they will not have to waste precious time trying to find or catch them.
- Create a pet emergency/disaster kit and place it in a prominent place where your neighbor can find it.
- If the emergency involves evacuation, make sure the neighbor would be willing to take your pets and has access to the appropriate carriers and leashes. Plan to meet at a prearranged location.
- If you find yourself away from home when disaster strikes, don't panic. The Department of Animal Regulation, with your permission, can and will access your property to evacuate or rescue your animals as the situation allows. Call immediately and be prepared to give detailed instructions. In preparation, keep a list of all of your animals, their names, descriptions, locations, habits and idiosyncrasies with you at work or on the road. That list can be faxed or emailed to Animal Regulation at the appropriate time.

Special Consideration for Small Pets

- Small animals, such as hamsters, gerbils, mice and guinea pigs, should be transported in secure carriers with bedding materials, food and food bowls. Items to keep on hand: Salt lick, extra water bottle, small hide-box or tube, a week's worth of bedding, exercise wheel.
- Transportation of pet birds is best accomplished using small, secure, covered carriers to avoid injury.
- Transportation of small reptiles can be accomplished using a pillowcase, cloth sack, or small transport carrier.
- Transportation of amphibians can be accomplished by using watertight plastic bags, such as the ones used for pet fish transport, or plastic containers, such as plastic shoeboxes or plastic food containers with snap-on lids.
- Birds or poultry should never be transported in wire caging. Feathers can easily be damaged. Cardboard cat carriers or even burlap sacking (with ventilation) are preferable.
- Be sure to take more appropriate caging, aquariums etc. with you for the ultimate housing of these animals. Remember that they may have to live in this equipment for days or weeks.