

Protect YOUR PETS AND SERVICE ANIMALS!

Our pets are our friends and part of our families. Service animals are friends and family, plus a great support for independence. They also need us – their family – to provide food, safety, medical care and more. In a disaster, pets and service animals need extra help and should always be a part of disaster plans.

Gather ENOUGH SUPPLIES TO LAST THROUGH AN EMERGENCY:

- Pets and service animals need everyday items, just like you do. Make sure you have enough on-hand in case of an emergency.
- Have at least 3 days of supplies in case you need to shelter-in-place or if you need to evacuate. Some items to stock up on include:
 - Food, especially non-perishable food
 - Bottled water: how much you will need depends on your animal, so a Dachshund will need less water than a Great Dane. (For context, experts recommend 1 gallon per person per day for humans)
 - Medicines, including meds they take “as needed”
 - Bathroom supplies, such as cat litter
 - Cleaning supplies, such as shampoo or brushes
 - Tennis balls or other toys, which can calm your animal in a stressful time
- Because you may need to evacuate, keep these pet supplies near an exit, next to your other “go-bags” of emergency items. You can also keep supplies in your car.

Never LEAVE YOUR PET BEHIND:

- Include your animals in evacuation plans.
 - Practice evacuating at least once: this may help you find the best way to get your pet’s attention and out the door quickly
 - If you have a written evacuation plan or checklist, put your pets on it! A printed checklist by your door can be useful
 - Livestock also count! Take care of horses, cows and more
- Get in touch with neighbors in case an emergency happens when you are not at home.
 - Knowing your neighbors is useful in general during an emergency
 - When you find a trustworthy neighbor, see if they can help your animal get to safety during an emergency – and then reunite you with your pet.
 - This may depend on the types of disasters in your area. For example, an earthquake or wildfire could hit suddenly, and make it so your animal needs to evacuate right away. On the other hand, if your area gets hurricanes, you will usually have a couple days’ notice, making it easier to get your pet on your own.

Sheltering WITH A SERVICE ANIMAL:

- If you must evacuate, you should do everything possible to take your animals with you.
- Shelters and businesses cannot discriminate against people with service animals. If you must shelter at a hotel or “congregate shelter” (like a high school gym), you can bring a service animal.
- Dogs and miniature horses are the only service animals recognized by law. Shelters or businesses can turn you away if you have another kind of support animal.
- Hotels and shelter managers should not ask you for any documents showing that your dog or miniature horse is a service animal. If they ask, you have the right to refuse – and they cannot turn you away.
- If you are staying in a shelter, your service animal must be trained and well-behaved.

Shelters FOR PETS OR LIVESTOCK:

- In disasters, government usually sets up shelters for pets and livestock, so they do not get hurt or stranded in an emergency. This also lets you evacuate instead of staying behind with animals, which would risk your safety.
 - This usually will not be your local animal rescue shelter! Emergency animal shelters are usually in larger areas that can also handle livestock.
- Your city or county will have an emergency management department or agency. When there are evacuations, this agency will know where animal shelters are.
 - Sign up for your local disaster alerts through phone, text message, and/or email. Evacuation warnings will usually include where animal and livestock can go.
 - It’s always useful to have contact info for emergency agencies. They may also have social media accounts you can follow, tweet at or message.
- There are staff at these shelters that look over pets and livestock.
- Animal shelters are usually near emergency shelters for evacuees. You may not be able to stay overnight with your pets, but they may be close enough to visit during the day.

