

Yes! My family (including pets) is ready for disaster.

My basic disaster kit includes:

- Food and water for at least five to seven days** for each pet, bowls, and a manual can opener. People need at least one gallon of water per person per day. While your pet may not need that much, keep an extra gallon on hand to use if your pet has been exposed to chemicals or flood waters and needs to be rinsed.
- Medications and medical records** stored in a waterproof container and a first-aid kit. A pet first-aid book is also a good idea.
- Cat litter box, litter, litter scoop and garbage bags** to collect all your pets' waste.
- Sturdy leashes, harnesses and carriers** to transport pets safely and to ensure that they cannot escape. Make sure that your cat or dog is wearing a collar and identification that is up-to-date and visible at all times. Carriers should be large enough to allow your pet to stand comfortably, turn around, stretch, and lie down. (Your pet may have to stay in the carrier for hours at a time.) Be sure to have a secure cage with no loose objects inside it to accommodate smaller pets—who may also need blankets or towels for bedding and warmth as well as special items, depending on their species.
- Current photos of you with your pets and descriptions of your pets** to help others identify them in case you become separated—and to prove that they are yours once reunited.
- Written information about your pets'** feeding schedules, medical conditions, and behavior considerations along with the name and number of your veterinarian.

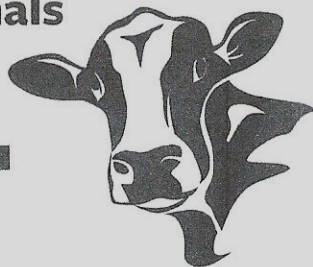
Other useful items include:

- Newspapers
- Paper towels
- Plastic trash bags/gallon Ziploc bags
- Grooming items/baby or cleaning wipes (especially if water access is limited)
- Plastic cleaning gloves

Visit humanesociety.org/disaster for more resources on staying safe during times of disaster. And remember—if it's not safe for you, it's not safe for your pets.

Disaster Preparedness for Farm Animals

Large animals & livestock need extra consideration in disaster planning



WHY LIVESTOCK OWNERS NEED TO BE PREPARED

Disaster preparedness is important for all animals, but it is especially important for livestock because of the size of the animals and their shelter and transportation needs. Disasters can happen anywhere and take many different forms—from hurricanes to barn fires, floods to hazardous materials spills—forcing possible evacuation. Whether you evacuate or shelter in place, it's important to be prepared to protect your farm animals.

TAKE PRECAUTIONS

One of the smartest things you can do to protect your family and livestock is to make sure you review and update your disaster plan, supplies, and information regularly.

SHELTERING IN PLACE

If evacuation is not possible, a decision must be made whether to confine large animals to an available shelter on your farm or leave them out in pastures.

Many factors need to be taken into consideration to figure out what's best in varying situations.

BARN FIRES: THE MOST COMMON DISASTER

Preventing barn fires and being prepared in the event of a fire can mean the difference between life and death for your livestock. Knowledge of the danger of fires and how to deal with them is essential, and vigilance is key to prevention.

EVACUATION PLANNING

A successful evacuation plan depends on many factors. We've compiled a detailed list of precautions and do's and don'ts to help you develop a foolproof strategy.

FARM DISASTER KIT

Make a disaster kit so you have supplies on hand in the event of a disaster. Place the kit in a central location and let everyone know where it is. Check the contents regularly to ensure fresh and complete supplies.

Make a Disaster Plan for Your Pets

How to keep pets safe in natural disasters and everyday emergencies



1 START GETTING READY NOW: ID YOUR PET

Make sure that cats and dogs are wearing collars and identification tags that are up-to-date. You'll increase your chances of being reunited with pets who get lost by having them microchipped; make sure the microchip registration is in your name. But remember, the average good samaritan who finds your pet won't be able to scan for a chip, but they will be able to read a basic tag!

Put your cell phone number on your pets' tag. It may also be a good idea to include the phone number of a friend or relative outside your immediate area—in case you have had to evacuate.

Put together your disaster kit. Use our checklist to assemble an **emergency kit** for yourself and your pets.

Find a safe place to stay ahead of time. Never assume that you will be allowed to bring your pets to an emergency shelter. **Before a disaster hits, call your local office of emergency management** to see if you will be allowed to evacuate with your pets and verify that there will be shelters in your area that take people and their pets.

Contact hotels and motels outside your immediate area to find out if they accept pets. Ask about any restrictions on number,

size and species. Inquire if a "no pet" policy would be waived in an emergency. Keep a list of animal-friendly places handy, and make a reservation as soon as you think you might have to leave your home.

Make arrangements with friends or relatives. Ask people outside your immediate area if they would be able to shelter you and your pets—or just your pets—if necessary. If you have more than one pet, you may need to arrange to house them at separate locations.

Consider a boarding kennel or veterinarian's office. Make a list of day-care/boarding facilities and veterinary offices that might be able to shelter animals in disaster emergencies (make sure to include their 24-hour telephone numbers).

Plan for your pets in case you're not home. In case you're away during a disaster or evacuation order, **make arrangements well in advance for someone you trust 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. Give your emergency caretaker a key to your home and show them where your pets are likely to be (especially if they hide when they're nervous) and where your disaster supplies are kept.

If you have a pet-sitter, they may be able to help. Discuss the possibility well in advance.



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2 IF YOU EVACUATE, TAKE YOUR PETS

Rule number one: If it isn't safe for you, it isn't safe for your pets. You have no way of knowing how long you'll be kept out of the area, and you may not be able—or allowed—to go back for your pets. Pets left behind in a disaster can easily be injured, lost or killed.

Pledge to take your pet with you when disaster strikes

Rule number two: Evacuate early. Don't wait for a mandatory evacuation order. Some people who have waited to be evacuated by emergency officials are limited in the options available for their animals. The smell of smoke or the sound of high winds or thunder may make your pet more fearful and difficult to load into a crate or carrier. Evacuating before conditions become severe will keep everyone safer and make the process less stressful.

3 IF YOU STAY HOME, DO IT SAFELY

If your family and pets must wait out a storm or other disaster at home, identify a safe area of your home where you can all stay together.

- Close off or eliminate unsafe nooks and crannies where frightened pets may try to hide.
- Move dangerous items such as tools or toxic products that have been stored in the area.
- Bring your pets indoors as soon as local authorities say trouble is on the way. Keep dogs on leashes or harnesses 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.

- Listen to the radio and don't come out until you know it's safe.

4 AFTER THE DISASTER

Your home may be a very different place after the emergency is over, and it may be hard for your pets to adjust.

- Don't allow your pets to roam loose. Familiar landmarks and smells might be gone, and your pets may be disoriented. Pets can easily get lost in such situations.
- While you assess the damage, keep dogs on leashes and cats in carriers inside the house. If your house is damaged, your pets could escape.
- Be patient with your pets after a disaster. Try to get them back into their normal routines as soon as possible. Be ready for changes in behavior caused by the stress of the situation. If your pet(s) seems to be having any health problems, talk to your veterinarian.
- If your community has been flooded, check your home and yard for wild animals who may have sought refuge there. Wildlife can pose a threat to you and your pets. Check out our tips for humanely dealing with wildlife issues.

5 BE READY FOR EVERYDAY EMERGENCIES

You can't get home to your pets. There may be times that you can't get home to take care of your pets. Icy roads may trap you at the office overnight, an accident may send you to the hospital—things happen. But you can make sure your pets get the care they need by making arrangements now:

- Find a trusted neighbor, friend, or family member and give them a key. Make sure this back-up caretaker is comfortable and familiar with your pets (and vice versa).

PLANS AREN'T JUST FOR PETS

Disaster plans aren't only essential for the safety of pets. If you're responsible for other kinds of animals during natural disasters, disaster plans for feral or outdoor cats, horses, and animals on farms can be lifesavers.

- Make sure your back-up caretaker knows your pets' feeding and medication schedule, whereabouts, and habits.
- If you use a pet-sitting service, find out in advance if they will be able to help in case of an emergency.

Heat wave

High temperatures can be dangerous. Learn more about hot weather safety for pets.

The electricity goes out

If you're forced to leave your home because you've lost electricity, take your pets with you to a pet-friendly hotel. If it's summer, even just an hour or two in the sweltering heat can be dangerous. If you stay at home during a summer power outage, ask your local emergency management office if there are pet-friendly cooling centers in the area. If it's winter, don't be fooled by your pets' fur coats; it isn't safe to leave them in an unheated house.

Disaster Preparedness for Horses

Horses require extra consideration in disaster planning



A good disaster plan is vital to keeping yourself and your animal companions safe. But horses require extra consideration because of their size and specific transportation needs. Since there may not be much time to act during an emergency, take the time now to create an effective plan.

PLANNING FOR A DISASTER

Permanently identify each horse by tattoo, microchip, or photograph. In your records, include the horse's age, gender, breed, color, and any other specific markings or characteristics. Keep this information with your important papers.

Keep halters ready for your horses. On each halter attach a luggage tag with the following information: the horse's name, your name, physical address, email address, and your telephone numbers. At the time of evacuation, consider additional temporary identification such as a leg band, hair braid tag, or body marking.

Place your horses' Coggins tests, veterinary papers, identification photographs, and vital information—such as medical history, allergies, and emergency telephone numbers (veterinarian, family members, etc.)—in a watertight envelope. Store the envelope with your other important papers in a safe place that will be easy for you to access, so you can take them with you when you and your horses evacuate.

Make arrangements in advance to have your horses trailered in case of an emergency. If you don't have your own trailer or don't have enough room in your trailer for your horses, be sure you have several people on standby to help evacuate them.

EVACUATION

It is important that your horses are comfortable being loaded onto a trailer. If your horses are unaccustomed to being loaded onto a trailer, practice the procedure so they become used to it.

Know where you can take your horses in an emergency evacuation. When possible, make arrangements with a friend or another horse owner to stable your horses well beyond the region at risk. Contact your local animal care and control agency, agricultural extension agent, or local emergency management authorities for information about shelters in your area.

IF YOU CANNOT EVACUATE WITH YOUR HORSE

Have a back-up plan in case it's impossible to take your horse with you when you evacuate. Consider different types of disasters and the varying need for plans for these scenarios. Your local humane organization, agricultural extension agent, or local emergency management agency may be able to provide

you with information about your community's disaster response plans and what is recommended. Please remember that if the decision is to let the horses free from the barn because of wildfire, or fast-moving and rising water, it will not be enough to just open the stall doors and let them out. If time allows, please restrict their access to return to the stall or barn. Horses will return to where they are fed and cared for and may not flee if the option exists to return to a barn or stall.

Share your evacuation plans with friends and neighbors. Post detailed instructions in several places—including the barn office or tack room, the horse trailer, and barn entrances—to ensure emergency workers can see them in case you are not able to evacuate your horses yourself.

WHEN DISASTER STRIKES

Don't leave your horse behind. A situation that isn't safe for you won't be safe for your equine companions, either.

Evacuate immediately. If you wait until the last minute to evacuate, there may be limited options for your horses. In this case, your horses could be unattended for days without care, food, or water.

SUPPLIES

Prepare a basic first aid kit that is portable and easily accessible. Be sure to include enough water (12 to 20 gallons per day per horse), hay, feed, and medications for several days for each horse.