

# Disaster Response Considerations for Birds      Arizona Animals in Disaster

<http://www.emptybowlpetfoodpantry.org/>

- STORAGE CONTAINER:** Store the emergency supplies in moisture-resistant containers which will fit your vehicle. An evacuation event is not the time to discover your carefully prepared emergency supplies don't fit in the car!
- FIRST AID KIT:** You can use your existing bird first aid kit, or build a second one to always be with your emergency supplies.
  - WATER:** One-third to one-half gallon per day for large birds, for drinking and bathing. Keep track of how much water you give your birds each day, double that amount, and store a seven-day supply.
  - FOOD:** Pelleted diets, dried fruits and veggies, pasta, and seeds should survive well in airtight containers. On a regular basis, rotate the emergency food into the daily food supply and store fresh food into the emergency containers. Do not assume that there will be cooking facilities for special foods such as bird bread, cooked pasta or frozen vegetables or that there will be refrigeration for fresh vegetables.
  - SPRAY BOTTLE:** For cleaning and misting the birds
  - FOOD AND WATER DISHES:** Something non-breakable and easily cleaned.
  - GARBAGE BAGS, PAPER TOWELS, BIRD-SAFE DISINFECTANT:** For general cage and carrier cleaning. A 1:20 bleach:water solution (one part bleach to 20 parts clean water) can be used for emergency disinfectants, though the birds should not ingest the bleach solution.
  - PORTABLE CAGES OR CARRIERS:** collapsible models are commercially available, as are airline kennels. Special cardboard carriers may be available from some vets or pet supply stores, but for parrots, these may be short term carriers at best. Write your name and address on the carrier using an indelible marker or on a tag attached to the carrier or cage.
  - CAGE COVERS:** Old sheets or large towels work well. Blankets may be more appropriate for cold weather emergencies. Even if you do not normally cover your bird at night, an emergency cover is a good idea because if they are temporarily housed in a shelter with other birds and animals, a bit of privacy and the illusion of a "safe space" may be helpful.
  - TOWELS:** For restraining birds for handling, exams, or treatment. Many folks prefer having their bird held in a towel from home, rather than one which was already used on another bird.
  - NEWSPAPER:** Or some other bird-safe, easily disposable cage/carrier lining
  - CAGE TOYS:** Select something familiar from the regular cage, or similar to normal cage toys. This can help ease the turmoil of evacuation or special sheltering conditions.
  - MEDICINES:** keep **all** pet medicines in one location at home, preferably in a waterproof container.
  - BIRD IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTATION:** Ideally, have a full profile and behavior sheet on record for each bird online at a place like google docs. Make two copies of each. Keep one set with your important papers that go with you if you evacuate. The other set can go with the bird if it has to go to a temporary shelter or to the vet. The photos will help identify your bird when it is time to be reunited.
  - BABY BIRD SUPPLIES:** If you have breeding pairs of birds, plan for baby bird emergency supplies as well. Store and periodically rotate a supply of hand feeding formula. Also store a supply of syringes, spoons, pipettes, or whatever is used to feed the babies. Set aside some type of portable, durable emergency brooder for the babies such as plastic 5-gallon buckets or plastic containers. Also, consider a heat source for the babies. A heating pad is OK if electricity is available. A hot water bottle can also be used if there is a way to heat water. A third alternative is a chemical "heat pack" which can be stored until needed. Information courtesy of <http://www.alaskabirdclub.org>



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