

# Pet Safety

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## Essential Pet Emergency Supplies

### Food and Water

- At least 5–7 days of pet food
- Bottled water for each pet
- Food and water bowls
- Manual can opener for canned food

### Medications and Medical Records

- 1–2 weeks of medications
- Copies of vaccination records
- Prescription information
- Contact information for your veterinarian
- Basic pet first aid supplies

### Safety and Containment

- Sturdy carrier or crate for each pet
- Leashes and harnesses
- Muzzle if needed for stressed animals
- Litter box and litter for cats
- Waste bags and cleaning supplies

### Comfort Items

- Blankets or towels
- Favorite toys
- Treats
- Familiar bedding to reduce anxiety

### Important Documents

- Keep copies in a waterproof bag or digitally on your phone:
- Vaccination records
- Microchip information
- Proof of ownership/photos
- Emergency contacts

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## Before the Storm: Make a Pet Emergency Plan

### Know Where You'll Go

- Identify pet-friendly hotels, shelters, boarding facilities, or friends/family outside evacuation zones.
- Do not assume every emergency shelter accepts pets.
- Have at least two backup locations in case your first option is full.

### Update Identification

- Make sure pets wear collars with current ID tags.
- Microchip pets and keep registration information updated.
- Keep recent photos of your pets in case you become separated.

### Prepare a Pet Emergency Kit

- Have supplies ready before hurricane season begins. Store items in waterproof containers if possible.

### During a Hurricane:

- Keep Pets Indoors
  - Bring pets inside early before conditions worsen.
  - Keep them in a secure room away from windows.
  - Loud winds and thunder can frighten animals and cause them to run away

### Never Leave Pets Behind

- If an area is unsafe for people, it is unsafe for pets. Animals left behind may become trapped in flooding, injured by debris, or unable to access food and water.

### Maintain Routine if Possible

- Feed pets on a normal schedule.
- Walk dogs during breaks in severe weather only when safe.
- Keep cats indoors at all times during storms.

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## Evacuation Safety for Pets

### Transporting Pets

- Secure pets in carriers or crates while traveling.
- Never allow pets to roam freely inside vehicles during evacuations.
- Keep leashes on pets during stops.

### What to Expect at Shelters

- Some emergency shelters accept pets, but rules vary:
- Pets may need proof of vaccinations.
- Animals may be housed separately from owners.
- Bring your own supplies, food, and crates.
- Service animals are generally allowed in all emergency shelters

### Fish and Aquariums

- Keep battery-powered air pumps available during outages.
- Avoid sudden temperature changes.
- Have backup water treatment supplies.

### Birds

- Cover cages during severe weather to reduce stress.
- Keep birds away from drafts and broken windows.

### Livestock and Large Animals

- Move animals to higher ground if flooding is possible.
- Clearly label animals with owner information.
- Maintain trailers and transportation plans before storms develop.

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## After the Storm

### Watch for Hazards

- Floodwaters and debris can hide dangerous objects or chemicals. Be cautious of:
  - Downed power lines
  - Sharp debris
  - Contaminated water
  - Wildlife displaced by flooding
  - Hot pavement and broken glass

### Keep Pets Leashed

- Even familiar neighborhoods may look and smell different after a storm, causing pets to become disoriented.

### Monitor Stress and Health

- Storms can trigger anxiety or illness in animals. Watch for:
  - Loss of appetite
  - Excessive panting or shaking
  - Hiding or aggression
  - Vomiting or diarrhea
  - Contact a veterinarian if symptoms persist.

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- Pet-friendly evacuation destination identified
- Carrier/crate ready
- Food and water packed
- Medications prepared
- Vaccination records copied
- Leash, harness, litter, waste bags included
- ID tags and microchip updated
- Recent pet photos saved