

Remember, Pets have stress, too!

Planning and preparation will enable you to evacuate with your pets quickly and safely. But bear in mind that animals react differently under stress.

Outside your home and in the car, keep dogs securely leashed.

Transport cats in carriers.

Do not leave animals unattended anywhere they can run off. The most trustworthy pets may panic, hide, try to escape, or even bite or scratch.

And, when you return home, give your pet time to settle back into their routines. Consult your veterinarian if any behavior problems persist.

About Other Pets

Birds: Birds should be transported in a secure travel cage or carrier. In cold weather, wrap a blanket over the carrier and warm up the car before placing birds inside. During warm weather, carry a plant mister to mist the birds' feathers periodically. Do not put water inside the carrier during transport. Provide a few slices of fresh fruits and vegetables with high water content. Have a photo for identification and leg bands. If the carrier does not have a perch, line it with paper towels and change them frequently. Try to keep the carrier in a quiet area. Do not let the birds out of the cage or carrier.

Reptiles: Snakes can be transported in a pillowcase, but they must be transferred to more secure housing when they reach the evacuation site. If your snakes require frequent feedings, carry food with you. Take a water bowl large enough for soaking as well as a heating pad. When transporting house lizards, follow the same directions as for birds.

Pocket Pets: Small mammals (hamsters, gerbils, etc.) should be transported in secure carriers suitable for maintaining the animals while sheltered. Take bedding materials, food bowls, and water bottles.

About Us

Planning for emergencies and disasters is everyone's responsibility. The Oswego County Emergency Management Office (EMO) helps make that happen by working with first response agencies, local governments, county agencies and the public to prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate against natural and man-made disasters.

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Disaster Preparedness for Pets



OSWEGO COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE



Keep Your Pets Safe!

Disaster disrupts and affects everything in its path, including pets, livestock, and wildlife.

Families can prepare by putting together a plan and getting together items for a Disaster Supplies Kit. Pets depend on you for their safety and wellbeing. Here are some tips for protecting them.

Create a Disaster Plan

The best way to protect your family's pets from the effects of a disaster is to include them in your Family Disaster Plan. Being prepared can save their lives.

Different disasters require different responses. If a chemical spill occurs near your home, you may have to evacuate. A severe winter storm might confine you for several days to weeks.

Pet Supplies Kit

Keep these on hand in case you're confined to your home:

- A week's supply of food and water for your pet
- Dry food stored in air-tight/waterproof containers
- Canned food with a hand-operated can opener
- Some of your pet's favorite treats
- A supply of cat litter, a litter scoop, and a litter pan
- Medications and medical records
- Pet first-aid kit

If You Must Evacuate

In the event of a disaster, if you must evacuate, the most important thing you can do to protect your pets is to evacuate them, too. Leaving pets behind, even if you try to create a safe place for them, is likely to result in their being injured, lost or worse. So, prepare now for the day when you and your pets may have to leave your home.

1. Plan to Take Your Pets to a Safe Place

Many disaster shelters **cannot accept pets** because of states' health and safety regulations and other considerations. Service animals who assist people with disabilities are the **ONLY** animals allowed in shelters operated by the American Red Cross. It may be difficult, if not impossible, to find shelter for your animals during a disaster.

Here is what you should do now:

- Contact hotels and motels outside your immediate area to check policies on accepting pets and restrictions on number, size, and species. Ask if "no pet" policies could be waived in an emergency. Keep a list of "pet friendly" places, including phone numbers, with other disaster information and supplies. If you can, call ahead for reservations.
- Ask friends, relatives, or others outside the affected area whether they could shelter your animals. If you have more than one pet, they may be more comfortable if kept together, but be prepared to house them separately.
- Prepare a list of boarding facilities and veterinarians who could shelter animals in an emergency; include 24-hour phone numbers.

2. Assemble a Portable Pet Disaster Supply Kit

Gather these essential items together. Keep them in an accessible place and store them in sturdy containers that can be carried easily, like a duffle bag.

Your pet disaster supplies kit should include:

- Medications and medical records (stored in a waterproof container) and a first aid kit.
- Sturdy leashes, harness, and/or carriers to transport pets safely and ensure that your animals can't escape.
- Current photos of your pets in case they get lost.
- Food, potable water, bowls, cat litter/pan, and can opener.
- Information on feeding schedules, medical conditions, behavior problems, and the name and number of your veterinarian in case you must foster or board your pets.
- Pet beds and toys, if easily transported.

3. If a Disaster is Approaching

If emergency officials warn that disaster conditions are pending, take actions to protect your pets while you protect yourself:

- Call ahead to confirm emergency shelter arrangements for you and your pets.
- Check to be sure your pet's disaster supplies are ready to take at a moment's notice.
- Bring all pets into the house so you won't have to search for them.
- Make sure all dogs/cats are wearing securely fastened collars with updated identification. Attach the phone number and address of your temporary shelter, if known, or a friend or relative outside the disaster area. You can buy temporary tags or put an adhesive tape on the back of your pet's ID tag, adding information with a permanent pen.

You might not be home when disaster strikes, so plan for a trusted neighbor to take your pets and meet you at a pre-arranged location.