



## Disaster and Emergency Management Resources

### Including Pets in Your Disaster Plans

- Family pets can be a major source of concern during a disaster – particularly if you are forced to evacuate your home. In fact, pets are a major consideration in the reluctance of many disaster victims to evacuate their homes since pets are typically not allowed in public emergency shelters. Accordingly, it is important that you make arrangements for your pets as part of your family disaster planning. This includes the following:
- Make prearrangements for sheltering your pets if necessary during a disaster. Contact friends, family, veterinarians, or boarding kennels to arrange for care. Perhaps there is a motel or hotel in your area that allows pets.
- The needs of your pets should be included in your family disaster evacuation kit. This should include a week's supply of food and medicine plus litter and a litter pan for any cats. In addition, the kit should include written feeding and medical instructions
- Keep your pet's shots current and know where the records are. Most kennels require proof of current rabies and distemper vaccinations before accepting a pet.
- Make sure you have a secure pet carrier, leash, or harness for your pets so they won't escape. An up-to-date identification tag should be placed on your pet's collar. Carry a photo of your pet with you for identification purposes.
- Decide on safe locations in your house where you could leave your pet in an emergency. Consider easy-to-clean areas such as utility areas or bathrooms and rooms with access to a supply of fresh water. Set up two separate locations if you have dogs and cats. Never plan on leaving your pet chained outside during a disaster event.

*Adapted from resource material developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Humane Society of the United States*