



City of Hesperia

Pets and Disasters

Disasters like earthquakes and floods don't just affect you – they also affect your pets, and, they depend on you for their safety. There are many ways to be “Pet Prepared”, but you must think ahead and start planning NOW. During a disaster, if you see an injured or stranded animal that needs help, tell your parents or an adult to contact Animal Control at (760) 947-1700. Remember, even if you don't have to evacuate, your pet may be stressed or upset and will need extra attention.



You should prepare a pet disaster kit including:

- ✓ Pet food and treats
- ✓ Drinkable water in plastic bottles
- ✓ Can opener for canned food
- ✓ Pet medications and medical records in a waterproof container
- ✓ Sturdy leashes, harnesses and/or carriers so you can move your pets safely and they can't escape (remember they may be scared and act different than usual)
- ✓ Current photos of your pet in case they get lost
- ✓ The name of your veterinarian
- ✓ Pet beds and toys, if there is room

Make sure your pets have current vaccinations, identification tag and collar, and have been microchipped.



City of _____

If you need to evacuate the most important thing is to TAKE YOUR PET WITH YOU. Leaving pets behind, even if you create a safe place for them, is not the best action, however, **pets cannot go with you to a Red Cross emergency shelter** (unless they are service animals, like dogs for the visually impaired). Since your pet cannot go to the shelter, you need to plan ahead.

- Contact hotels outside your immediate area and ask about their policies on accepting pets during an emergency. Keep a list of “pet friendly” places in your emergency kit so you’ll know where to go. If you get advance notice that you need to evacuate, call and make a reservation at the “pet friendly” place right away!
- You can also ask friends or relatives outside the area if they could keep your pets in an emergency.
- Prepare a list of boarding facilities and veterinarians who could shelter your animals in an emergency. Keep the list in your emergency kit.
- Recognize, if you have more than one pet, they may be more comfortable if they are kept together, although, in an emergency that might not be possible.
- If you are under a disaster warning, keep your pets inside with you so you don’t have to look for them if you have to evacuate. Make sure they are wearing collars and identification tags.