PROTECT YOUR PETS IN AN EMERGENCY

Make plans to ensure your pets' safety before, during, and after an emergency. The following are organizations and resources that you can contact or access to help you plan how to protect your pets.

If you don't have a plan and need information quickly in an emergency, contact:

- Local Animal Shelters Because most emergency shelters do not admit pets, local animal shelters may be able to offer advice, such as what to do with your pets if you are asked to evacuate your home. You can search for local shelters on the Pets 911 Web site (***http://www.pets911.com/organizations/organizations.php***).
- Local Government Animal Control or Service Agencies Local government animal control or service agencies can provide guidance on how to protect your pets in an emergency.
- Find out what your community's plans and resources are for protecting pets in an emergency.
- American Red Cross Visit the Red Cross' Web site on Animal Safety (***http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/0,1082,0_604_,00.html***), which is a joint effort of the Red Cross and the Humane Society.
- American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) AMVA offers a variety of resources to assist veterinarians, animal owners, and others interested in the well-being of animals to prepare for animal safety in the event of a disaster.

    - Disaster Preparedness Site (***http://www.avma.org/disaster/***)
    - "Saving the Whole Family" Brochure (***http://www.avma.org/disaster/saving_family.asp***)

- Emergency Animal Rescue Service (EARS) EARS responds to disasters by sending trained volunteers to rescue, shelter, feed, groom, exercise, and provide tender loving care for any displaced companion animals (dogs, cats, etc.), wildlife, and livestock during the duration of a disaster with no charge to the community. Visit the EARS Website (***http://www.uan.org/ears/index.html***) for information on protecting cats, dogs, horses, and other companion animals from disaster.
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) FEMA is the federal agency that leads the effort to prepare the nation for all hazards and effectively manage federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident.

    - Animals and Emergencies: Preparedness Information: ***http://www.fema.gov/library/aprep.shtm***
    - Public Service Announcements: ***http://www.fema.gov/library/psa/98hurr_60.shtm***

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine offers the fact sheet "Protecting Pets in a Disaster." (***http://www.fda.gov/cvm/disaster.htm***) This fact sheet provides tips on preparing for a disaster and handling animals during and after a disaster.

- National Animal Poison Control Center In emergency situations, pets could be poisoned by exposure to harmful chemicals, products, or foods. For information on protecting your pets, visit the Animal Poison Control Center's Web site (***http://www.aspca.org/site/PageServer?pagename=pro_apcc***). See in particular the publication Keep Your Pet's Home Poison Safe (***http://www.aspca.org/site/PageServer?pagename=pets_poisonsafe***). If you suspect that your pet has been poisoned, call toll-free 1-888-426-4435 (calls are answered 24 hours a day, every day).
- Pet Travel and Lodging Resources Most emergency shelters do not take pets. Before an emergency, plan where you will take your family and pets if you are ever asked to evacuate your home. There are a number of organizations that offer advice and resources for traveling with pets, including searchable lists of lodging establishments that accept pets. For example, visit
    - DogFriendly.com (***http://www.dogfriendly.com/***)
    - PetTravel.com (***http://www.pettravel.com/***)
    - petswelcome.com (***http://www.petswelcome.com/***)
    -Travel Pets (***http://www.travelpets.com/***)
- The Humane Society Visit the Humane Society's Web site on pets and disaster planning (***http://www.hsus.org/pets/pet_care/be_a_lifesaver_disaster_planning_can_save_your_pet_in_an_emergency.html***).

For additional information on disaster planning and recovery, go to the Arkansas Department of Health website at ***www.healthy.arkansas.gov*** or call toll-free at ***1-800-462-0599*** or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at ***http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/workers.aspdc.gov/disasters***

Arkansas Department of Health
Keeping Your Hometown Healthy