

What About My Pets?

(See our [pet-friendly lodging list](#))

Only 38% of U.S. households have children, but 43% have pets! Take time now to plan how you will protect yours during a weather emergency.

If You Plan To Evacuate

All pet owners should make arrangement for their pets if they plan to evacuate. Public shelters will not accept pets. If you can't take your pets with you, arrangements should be made with a clinic or kennel. These arrangements should be made well in advance because available spaces fill up quickly as a storm approaches. If you plan to take your pets with you, you may want to ask your vet for a mild sedative (for the pet) and remember to take these items for their care:

- A secure pet carrier of appropriate size
- Food/water bowls
- A one week supply of dry food
- Water in plastic containers
- Medications and health records
- Leashes (muzzles if necessary)
- Newspapers and paper towels for cleanup
- A favorite blanket



Many hotels/motels will accept pets, especially in emergency situations. If you plan to go to a motel, determine in advance if pets are welcome and what, if any, special rules are applicable. Please see our [pet-friendly lodging list](#) for phone numbers and addresses. It is also a good idea to photograph each of your pets and include these pictures with your health records. All pets should have current immunizations and ensure that they have a collar with proper identification.

Service Animals

Though pets are not allowed in public shelters, in compliance with 28 CFR Part 36, supporting the American Disabilities Act, service animals will be allowed in both general and special needs shelters.

If You Must Leave Your Pet At Home

If you have to leave your pets at home try to secure them in a safe area of your home. Otherwise, your pets may escape and become disoriented as a storm could alter landmarks and scent trails. Make sure the pet is wearing a collar with proper identification. Remember, don't leave dogs and cats in the same space. Even if they normally get along, things may change as the storm approaches. Some other things to remember are:

- Place pets in ventilated safe rooms without windows
- Leave at least a three day food supply
- Leave plenty of water
- Leave access to elevated spaces in the event of flooding

Pet stores sell slow-release feeders for fish tanks if you evacuate.

After the storm, walk pets on a leash until they become reoriented to their home and surroundings. Downed power lines and other debris pose risks for you and your pets. Don't let pets consume food or water which may have become contaminated.

