

Preparing Animals for Disaster

Pet owners prepare to keep their animals safe in case disaster strikes.

Know where veterinary hospitals are located outside of their immediate areas. Veterinary hospitals near to, but not affected by, the disaster will be the best source of shelter and medical assistance for your pets. Identify relatives within a one-day drive that would allow them and their pets to stay with them. Have the animal properly identified with some type of permanent identification, preferably an identification tag. Carry photographs of your pets. Have all medicines for your pet available along with a three-day supply of food and water.

Vogelweid also recommends that pets are leash-trained, well behaved and can be transported easily in some type of carrier. Vaccinations should be up-to-date and health records of the pet should be readily available. Proof of vaccination and health records will be important when admitting pets for boarding at local veterinary hospitals and shelters. Excellent resources for preparing disaster plans for pets can be found on the websites of the Humane Society of the United States and the Red Cross.