

Disaster Preparation for Pets and their Families

Planning ahead can save your pet's life in an emergency!



Pets may not be allowed inside emergency shelters when a disaster strikes, so determine the best place to leave your pet in advance. Some helpful tips include:

- Dogs and cats should always wear collars with current I.D., rabies, and license tags.
- Pets should be current on all vaccinations. You will need to show proof of vaccinations if you must board your animals and you will need proof of ownership to retrieve your pet from a shelter.
- Store health records and other important documents in a zip-lock or waterproof plastic bag.
- Keep current photos of each pet.
- Keep veterinarian's information handy.
- Make arrangements with a trusted neighbor to check on your animals in case you are not home when disaster strikes. Exchange veterinary information and file a permission slip with your veterinarian authorizing your neighbor to get emergency treatment for your pet if you can't be located.



Prepare an Emergency Kit in Advance

Suggested items include:

- First aid kit
- Portable radio, flashlight & extra batteries
- Vaccination records
- Veterinarian's information
- Medications & dosage instructions
- Pet carriers, cages
- Leashes/non-nylon halters/leads or rope
- 2 weeks supply of food/water
- Can opener
- Non-spill food/water bowls
- Cat litter & box
- Newspaper/paper towels
- Plastic bags
- Duct tape
- Permanent marker
- Bleach/disinfectant solution
- Water buckets

For additional details on what to include in the emergency kit and how to be prepared to help your pet through a disaster, visit the Regional Animal Services website at www.WashoeAnimals.com



Take your animals with you if you can!

If you can't take your animals with you:

- Do not leave pets chained outdoors. Bring your pets indoors and confine them to a safe room with no windows and adequate ventilation.
- Leave only dry-type foods in non-spill containers (NO treats or vitamins).
- Leave water in bathtubs or other non-spill containers.
- Do not leave cats and dogs together, even if they normally get along.
- Confine and keep small pets, such as birds and hamsters, away from cats and dogs.
- Leave livestock in the preselected area appropriate for the disaster type with enough water for a minimum of 48 hours.
- Make arrangements with a trusted neighbor to check on your animals in case you are not home when disaster strikes.



If you've lost an animal during an emergency situation:

If you've lost an animal, contact Regional Animal Services, the Humane Society, veterinarians, boarding facilities and neighbors.

- Visit the animal shelter daily and check WashoeAnimals.com on a regular basis.
- Listen to the news and other emergency information services, such as AlertID, to find out which groups are accepting lost animals.
- If you find someone else's animal, call Regional Animal Services.
- Always use caution when approaching and handling strange or frightened animals. Keep the stray isolated until it is returned to its owner or picked up by Regional Animal Services.

Regional Animal Services:

775-353-8900

Animal Rescue Teams:

When your pets are threatened by disaster, Regional Animal Services is ready to come to the rescue. We don't do it alone. A group of well-trained, knowledgeable and dedicated volunteers from Regional Animal Services' Animal Rescue Team work side-by-side with our Animal Control Officers to help save the lives of animals in an emergency.

Animal Rescue Team members live throughout Washoe County and have undertaken additional training in order to assist Regional Animal Services with the evacuation and care of animals during natural disasters and other emergencies.



For more information,
visit www.WashoeAnimals.com