

After it's Over....

Proper and advance planning and preparation can help you get through the disaster, but your home could be a very different place when it is over, whether you stayed at home or returned following an evacuation.

Don't let your pets loose right away. Familiar sights and smells might be gone, and this can be very disorienting for your pets. Pets frequently get lost in these situations. Dogs and cats should stay in carriers and on leashes for at least a few days indoors. If your house was damaged, there could be many ways for your pets to escape and end up lost.

Patience is the key to recovery after a disaster for you and your pets. It is best to try and get back into a normal routine with your pets as soon as you can. This helps curb behavioral problems linked to stress in your pet associated with the disaster. Persistent behavioral problems should be communicated to your veterinarian.

Special Note to Mobile Home Residents

Mobile home residents should evacuate when the first sign of a disaster becomes apparent. Go to the safest evacuation location you can, but avoid long distance evacuation, as it can pose transportation problems when highways are too busy and over-crowded.



For more information, please visit
www.LAAnimalServices.com



**ANIMAL
SERVICES**

For more information, please visit
www.LAAnimalServices.com



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**Preparing For Your
Pet in Case of a...**



**Make Plans for
Your Companion NOW!**

Are you and your family prepared in the event of a natural disaster or emergency?

If you own pets, you need to prepare for their safety and survival too. Your pet is an important member of your family. When making your family's emergency plan, keep in mind what is best for you is generally what is best for your animal companion as well.

Some Good Reasons to be Prepared:

Floods, wildfires, and earthquakes can occur anywhere and at anytime. If you think you will never have to evacuate as a result of one of these disasters, you could be terribly mistaken. It's important that you make preparations to evacuate your family and your pets when disaster strikes. Proper preparation will reward you with safety for your family and pets.

These are some steps that you can take to be better prepared to care for your pets in a disaster.

STEP 1:

Identification is Very Important...

Keep current identification and contact information on your pet at all times. Be sure to include information of an alternate contact, such as a friend or relative that does not live in the same area. This is important since you may not have access to your phone in a disaster area. This way someone you trust can help you get reunited with your pet if you can't be reached or are out of town. In addition, you should microchip your pets and for dogs, get a license, both of which will help reunite you with your lost pet.

STEP 2:

Find a Safe Place Ahead of Time...

Do your research in advance! Most evacuation shelters do not accept pets inside the facility with the exception of service animals. Only on rare occasions are animal evacuation centers located near human shelters. Contact hotels and motels outside your area in advance to check their policies regarding accepting pets and make a list of these pet friendly places. Check with friends, relatives, or others outside of your area and ask if they would be willing to shelter you and your pet(s) during an emergency. Make a list of boarding facilities and veterinary offices that might be able to help. Include 24-hour phone numbers. LA Animal Services will accept your animals only during an emergency for a short stay while alternate arrangements for long term shelter are made.



STEP 3:

Evacuating your pets...

The most important thing you can do for your pets when you are told to evacuate after a disaster is to take your pets with you. Pets left behind in a disaster area are prone to injury, becoming lost, or killed. Escape for animals left inside your home during or after a disaster can be difficult, if not impossible. When owners turn their pets loose to "fend for themselves" they quickly fall victim to exposure, starvation, contaminated water and/or food, accidents and predators. Leaving a dog behind tied or chained outside during or after a disaster is equivalent to a death sentence. Leave before mandatory orders for evacuation are given. Even if the trip was unnecessary, you will be glad you left early rather than waiting until the last minute to get you and your pet to safety. If you leave your home for any reason during a disaster or if you believe evacuation will be likely, please take your animals with you. Once you leave your home, you may not have the opportunity or be allowed to return for your pets.

STEP 4:

Information on Large Animal Evacuation...

In the event of an emergency where evacuations are ordered by emergency personnel, Los Angeles Animal Services will activate evacuation sites for equines and other large animals. Various locations may be used, depending on the location of the emergency and the area to be evacuated. If there is an emergency in your area and you believe evacuation is likely, or if you have been ordered to evacuate, please contact one of the animal care centers below to get current information on evacuation sites for your area.

For large animal evacuation:

West Valley Center: (818) 756-9325

from 8 a.m. to midnight.

East Valley Center: (818) 756-9323 24 hours a day

These numbers must only be used in case of a disaster.

STEP 5:

In Case You Are Away From Home...

An evacuation order can come, or a disaster might strike while you are at work, away from home, or out of town. Arrangements should be made well in advance for a neighbor or a friend to transport your pets and meet you at a predetermined location. Make sure that whoever you want to take your pets to you is comfortable with this responsibility, knows where to find your pets, knows where to find your emergency pet supplies, and has a key to your home. If you are unable to contact this person and unable to return to your home, please contact your local animal shelter for support. They may be able to return and help rescue your pets.



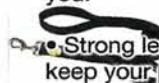
Disaster Checklist for Pet Supplies

Everyone in your family should know what is needed to be taken in an evacuation. It should be the same for your pets.

Your evacuation kit should include:

- Medication, pet first aid kit, medical records, and the address and contact information for your veterinarian stored in a sealed plastic bag. You may also want to include a first aid guide for pets as well.
- A carrier for your pet labeled with your contact information. Your animal should be familiar with the carrier prior to the disaster to help them be more comfortable and relaxed. Keep in mind they may be in the carrier for hours. They should be able to stand, lie down and turn around comfortably in the carrier.

- Microchip your pets. Collars can slip off and tags can get lost. Microchips are a great way to identify pets providing you have REGISTERED your microchip. Having your pet microchipped is the single most important thing you can do to ensure that your pet will be reunited with you.



- Strong leashes and/or harnesses. Make sure they can keep your pet from escaping.

- Comfortable blankets or a pet bed for a comfortable place to sleep and other special items that you feel will help keep your pet calm and relaxed. We suggest a familiar toy, bed and/or blanket.

- Current photos and description of your pets to help others identify them in case you and your pets become separated and to help prove that they are yours.



- A fresh supply of food and water that will sustain your pet for 1 week or more. Don't forget to also have food and water bowls, litter boxes, litter, and a manual can opener packed.

- Documentation of feeding schedules, medical conditions and information, behavior problems, and the veterinarian contact information in case you board your pets or place them in foster care. Some other items you may want to include are newspapers, paper towels, plastic trash bags for sanitation, grooming items, and household bleach.

