

# Saving the *whole* family<sup>®</sup> disaster preparedness



**DISASTER PREPAREDNESS SERIES**



# Saving the *whole* family<sup>®</sup> disaster preparedness

## **NATURE AND LIFE HAVE FURY DAYS**

Tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, fires, blizzards, terrorism...

Devastating natural and man-made disasters can ravage our lives. No one is exempt from the possibility of being personally affected. You need to prepare for yourself and for your animals in case of disaster.

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) has developed this booklet to help you avoid having to leave your animals stranded in the event of a disaster or an evacuation.

For the most current information and for links to additional websites [avma.org](http://avma.org)

## DO NOT WAIT UNTIL IT IS TOO LATE

Countless times people have been told to leave their homes for a “short time,” only to find they cannot return for days or weeks. Even disasters like gas leaks and minor flooding can keep you from tending to your animals for an extended period of time. To prevent situations such as these: TAKE YOUR ANIMALS WITH YOU.

It is best to be overly cautious when a disaster advisory or warning has been issued. Preparing ahead of time and acting quickly are the best ways to keep you and your family, including your animals, out of danger. Familiarize yourself with each type of disaster that could affect your area.

Some common hazards include:

- Flooding
- Fires (structure fires and wild fires)
- Earthquake
- Hurricanes
- Tornadoes
- Other severe weather (windstorms, lightning, hail, blizzards)
- Man-made disasters (chemical spills, nuclear incidents)
- Terrorism

For more information about hazards **Ready.gov**

- Be prepared for the possible disruption of services for extended periods of time, including gas, electricity, phone (cellular and land lines), internet service, and local sources of food, water and fuel.
- Have a plan in place and practice the plan prior to a disaster. This will help you successfully evacuate and maintain the safety of your family and your animals.

# PREPAREDNESS BEFORE THE DISASTER

## PREPARING A DISASTER PLAN

Schedule an appointment to talk to your VETERINARIAN about disaster planning.

- Assemble an animal EVACUATION KIT.
- Develop an evacuation plan for all of your animals and practice the plan.
- If you live in an apartment, make sure your animals are on record with management and they are able to be evacuated using the stairs. Teach dogs how to go up and down stairs to better assist rescue personnel.
- Keep written directions to your home near your telephone. This will help you and others explain to emergency responders exactly how to get to your home.
- Identify alternate sources of food and water.
- Have well maintained backup generators and a source of fuel for use in food-animal production operations.
- Keep vehicles well maintained and full of gas.
- Keep emergency cash on hand. (*Remember: ATMs may not work.*)
- If you have horses or livestock, good barn and field maintenance can reduce danger. If evacuating is impossible, decide on the safest housing option for your animals, realizing that the situation is still life threatening. Assess the stability and safety of barns and other structures, promptly remove dead trees, and minimize debris in fields and the immediate environment. If you live in an area prone to wildfires, clear away brush and maintain a defensible space around structures.

## IN CASE YOU ARE NOT AT HOME

Place stickers on front and back house doors, barn doors, and pasture entrances to notify neighbors, fire fighters, police, and other rescue personnel of animals on your property and the location of your evacuation supplies.

- Keep a list of the species, number and locations of your animals near your evacuation supplies and note animals' favorite hiding spots. This will save precious rescue time.
- Keep muzzles, handling gloves, catch nets and animal restraints where rescue personnel can find them. Remember that animals may become unpredictable when frightened.
- Designate a willing neighbor to tend to your animals in the event a disaster occurs when you are not at home. This person should have a key to your home, be familiar with your animals, know your evacuation procedures, and where your evacuation supplies are kept.
- Include a letter signed by you in your evacuation kit that releases your neighbor from responsibility if an animal is injured during an evacuation.
- You may also want to have a signed veterinary medical treatment authorization with your evacuation kit — this will aid your veterinarian in providing care if your animal must be treated during your absence.

# IDENTIFICATION

Having identification on your animals, including rabies and license tags, if applicable, may help reunite you with your animal(s) in the event you are separated. Identification should provide your name, home address, phone number(s), and the phone number of someone out-of-state with whom you will be in contact during or soon after the disaster/evacuation. If possible, include your veterinarian's name, location, and phone number. Examples of some forms of identification are listed below.

## Small Animal

- collar tag (*a piece of tape applied to the back of the collar tag can provide evacuation site information - use waterproof ink*)
- microchip\*
- tattoo
- temporary neckband
- waterproof pouch attached to collar with identification information inside
- many reptiles may be marked with a permanent felt-tipped marker
- clear identification on cage/housing for confined animals



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NAME

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HOME ADDRESS

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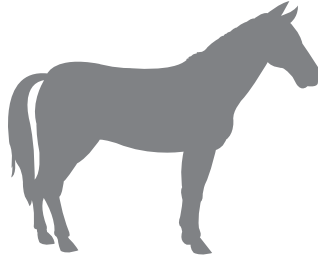
PHONE NUMBER(S)

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OUT-OF-STATE CONTACT

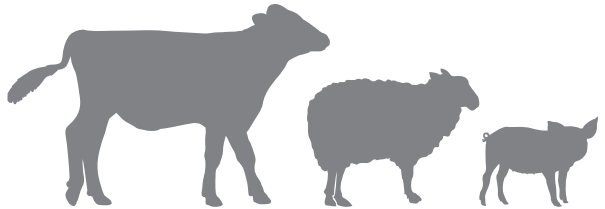
## Equine

- microchip\*
- tattoo
- halter tag
- neck collars
- leg band
- brand
- mane clip
- luggage tag braided into tail or mane
- clipper-shaved information in the animal's hair
- livestock marking crayon, non-toxic, non-water-soluble spray paint, or non-water-soluble markers to write on the animal's side
- permanent marker to mark hooves



## Livestock

- neck chain
- ear notches
- leg band
- ear tag
- brand
- livestock marking crayon, non-toxic, non-water-soluble spray paint, or markers to write on the animal's side
- wattle notching
- ear tattoo
- back or tail tag



*\*A small device about the size of a grain of rice, inserted by a veterinarian.*

*IMPORTANT: Make sure the microchip is registered with a national pet recovery database and that your contact information is kept current.*

# TRANSPORTATION/HOUSING

To decrease the risk of disease transmission, keep animals from different households separated as much as possible and use the best possible hygiene.

## Small Animal

- Leash, collar, and/or harness for each pet.
- For each pet: a collapsible cage or airline approved carrier with proper bedding. This can be used for transportation and housing purposes. Owning enough carriers to accommodate your pets facilitates a speedy evacuation and may mean the difference between the life or death of your pets.
- Familiarize your animals with evacuation procedures and cages/carriers. Take the cage/carrier out several times a year and put toys, blankets and treats inside. By doing this, you hope to reinforce positive feelings associated with the animal carrier.
- Cat carriers should be large enough to hold a small litter pan and two small dishes and still allow your cat enough room to lie down comfortably or stand to use the litter pan.
- Dog kennels or collapsible cages should be large enough to hold two no-spill bowls and still allow your dog enough room to stand and turn around.
- For added assurance, clearly label each carrier with your identification and contact information.
- Locate and PREARRANGE an evacuation site for your family and animals that is outside your immediate area. Ideally, this will be a friend/relative or a pet-friendly hotel willing to let your family and animals stay in the event of a disaster. Other possible animal housing options include veterinary hospitals, boarding kennels, and animal shelters.



## Equine/Livestock

Equine/livestock evacuation can be challenging:

- Develop an evacuation plan and make sure animals are familiar with being loaded onto a trailer.
- Premises with facilities specifically designed to load and handle livestock will be much more successful in evacuating and relocating livestock.
- Locate and prearrange an evacuation site for your animals outside your immediate area.

Possible sites include:

- veterinary or land grant colleges
- racetracks
- show grounds
- pastures
- stables
- fairgrounds
- equestrian centers
- livestock corrals
- stockyards or auction facilities
- other boarding facilities

If you do not have enough trailers to quickly transport all of your animals to an evacuation site, contact neighbors, local haulers, farmers, producers, or other transportation providers to establish a network of available and reliable resources that can provide transportation in the event of a disaster.

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# VETERINARY RECORDS

Make photocopies of important veterinary documents and keep them in the evacuation kit.

## Vaccination records

- Vaccinations: type and date
- Rabies certificate, if applicable

## Medical history

- Important test results, such as Feline Leukemia/Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FeLv/FIV), heartworm, equine infectious anemia (Coggins test), tuberculosis, and brucellosis
- Medical conditions and medications (including drug name, dosage, and frequency of dosing)
- If your animal has a microchip, a record of the microchip number
- **For cattle:** If an individual animal is or has been medically treated and is still under a withdrawal period, a treatment record must be maintained. The record must include animal's ID or group ID, date of treatment/s, the drug used and the drug manufacturer's serial or lot number, dosage of drug administered, route and location of administration, and the person administering the drug. The earliest date the animal could clear the withdrawal period for the administered drug should also be listed.

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# LIST OF IMPORTANT EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Prepare your emergency contact list now, before disaster strikes. Include addresses and 24-hour contact numbers, if available. This information can be used by you during a disaster or while evacuating and by rescue personnel responding to a disaster affecting your animals. Keep one copy near your telephone and one copy in your animal evacuation kit.

- Numbers where you may be reached  
pager/cell phone \_\_\_\_\_  
work phone \_\_\_\_\_
- Your **prearranged** evacuation site  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Local contact person in case of emergency if you are not available \_\_\_\_\_
- Out-of-state contact person \_\_\_\_\_
- Your veterinarian's name, clinic name, and phone numbers  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Alternate veterinarian (30-90 miles away, provides boarding) \_\_\_\_\_
- Boarding facility (local) \_\_\_\_\_
- Boarding facility (30-90 miles away) \_\_\_\_\_
- Hotels that allow pets (90 mile radius) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Local Animal Control Agency \_\_\_\_\_
- Local Police Department \_\_\_\_\_
- Local Fire Department \_\_\_\_\_

- Local Public Health Department \_\_\_\_\_
- Local Red Cross chapter \_\_\_\_\_
- List of internet “lost and found” animal sites  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Local animal shelter, local humane society, or local society for the prevention of cruelty to animals (SPCA)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Additional contacts for equine/livestock owners

- State veterinarian
- State veterinary colleges or land grant colleges of agriculture
- Private stables/farms
- County Extension office; especially important for livestock owners
- Brand inspector, if applicable
- State and county livestock associations
- Racetracks
- Fairgrounds
- Show grounds
- Stockyards
- Equestrian centers
- Local haulers or neighbors to help with transportation
- Feed distributor
- American Association of Equine Practitioners (aaep.org)
- American Association of Bovine Practitioners (aabp.org)
- American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners (aasrp.org)
- American Association of Swine Veterinarians (aasp.org)
- USDA-APHIS District Director/Assistant District Director (bit.ly/USDA-APHIS)
- USDA-APHIS Emergency Coordinator

# SMALL ANIMAL EVACUATION KIT

The following lists will help you prepare an evacuation kit for your animal(s) in the event of a disaster. Assemble the kit in easy-to-carry, waterproof containers. Store it in an easily accessible location away from areas with temperature extremes. Replace the food, water, and medications as often as needed to maintain quality and freshness and in accordance with expiration dates. If medications are stored elsewhere due to temperature requirements (refrigeration), indicate the name of the medication and its location.

Consult your veterinarian for advice on making an animal evacuation kit and a first aid kit appropriate for your animals. Become familiar with the items in your kit and how they are used before you need to use them. Your veterinarian may recommend an animal first aid book to include in your kit. Consult your veterinarian regarding emergency first aid procedures and administration of medications.

- 2-week supply of food (dry & canned)
- 2-week supply of water in plastic gallon jugs with secure lids
- Batteries (flashlight, radio)
- Cage/carrier (one for each animal, labeled with your contact information)
- Can opener (manual)
- Cat/wildlife gloves
- Copies of veterinary records and proof of ownership
- Emergency contact list
- Familiar items to make pets feel comfortable (favorite toys, treats, blankets)
- First aid kit (see next page)
- Flashlight
- Instructions
  - Diet: record the diet for each individual animal, including what not to feed in case of allergies.
  - Medications: list each animal separately, and for each medication include the drug name, dose and frequency. Provide veterinary and pharmacy contact information for refills.
- Leash and collar or harness (for each animal)
- Litter, litter pan, litter scoop
- Maps of local area and alternate evacuation routes in addition to GPS (in case of road closures)
- Muzzles (dog or cat)
- Newspaper (bedding, litter)
- No-spill food and water dishes
- Paper towels
- Radio (solar and battery operated)
- Spoon (for canned food)
- Stakes and tie-outs
- Trash bags

# SMALL ANIMAL FIRST AID KIT

Consult your veterinarian when developing a first aid kit. The items below serve only as examples of what may be included in a small animal first aid kit.

- Activated charcoal (liquid)
- Anti-diarrheal liquid or tablets
- Antibiotic ointment (for wounds)
- Antibiotic eye ointment
- Bandage scissors
- Bandage tape
- Betadine® (povidone-iodine) or Nolvasan® (chlorhexidine), scrub and solution
- Cotton bandage rolls
- Cotton-tipped swabs
- Elastic bandage rolls
- Eye rinse (sterile)
- Flea and tick prevention and treatment
- Gauze pads and rolls
- Ice cream sticks (which may be used as splints)
- Isopropyl alcohol/alcohol prep pads
- Latex gloves or non-allergenic gloves
- Liquid dish detergent (mild wound and body cleanser)
- Measuring spoons
- Medications and preventatives (such as heartworm prevention), minimum 2-week supply, with clearly labeled instructions. Provide veterinary and pharmacy contact information for refills.
- Non-adherent bandage pads
- Saline solution (for rinsing wounds)
- Sterile lubricant (water based)
- Styptic powder (clotting agent)
- Syringe or eyedropper
- Thermometer (digital)
- Tourniquet
- Towel and washcloth
- Tweezers



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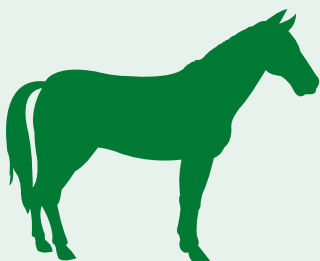
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# EQUINE EVACUATION KIT



- 7-10 day supply of feed, supplements, and water
- Bandannas (to use as blindfolds)
- Batteries (flashlight, radio)
- Blankets
- Copies of veterinary records and proof of ownership
- Duct tape
- Emergency contact list
- First aid kit
- Flashlight
- Fly spray
- Grooming brushes
- Heavy gloves (leather)
- Hoof knife
- Hoof nippers
- Hoof pick
- Hoof rasp
- Instructions
  - Diet: record the diet for your animals.
  - Medications: list each animal separately, and for each medication include the drug name, dose and frequency. Provide veterinary and pharmacy contact information for refills.
- Knife (sharp, all-purpose)
- Leg wraps and leg quilts
- Maps of local area and alternate evacuation routes in addition to GPS (in case of road closures)
- Non-nylon halters and leads (leather/cotton)
- Paper towels
- Plastic trash cans with lids (can be used to store water)
- Radio (solar, hand cranked and/or battery operated)
- Rope or lariat
- Shovel
- Tarpaulins
- Trash bags
- Twitch
- Water buckets
- Wire cutters

## NOTES:

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# EQUINE FIRST AID KIT

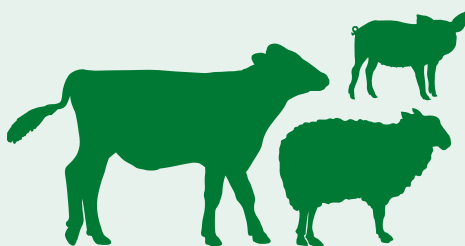
Consult your veterinarian when developing a first aid kit. The items below serve only as examples of what may be included in an equine first aid kit.

- 7-10 day supply of feed and water
- Antibiotic ointment (for wounds)
- Antibiotic eye ointment
- Bandage scissors
- Bandage tape
- Batteries (flashlight, radio)
- Betadine® (povidone-iodine) or Nolvasan® (chlorhexidine), scrub and solution
- Copies of veterinary records and proof of ownership
- Cotton/leather halter/lead
- Cotton bandage rolls
- Cotton-tipped swabs
- Duct tape
- Elastic bandage rolls
- Emergency contact list
- Eye rinse (sterile)
- Flashlight
- Gauze pads and rolls
- Heavy gloves (leather)
- Instructions
  - Diet: record the diet for your animals.
  - Medications: list each animal separately, and for each medication include the drug name, dose and frequency. Provide veterinary and pharmacy contact information for refills.
- Isopropyl alcohol/alcohol prep pads
- Knife (sharp, all-purpose)
- Latex gloves or non-allergenic gloves
- Maps of local area and alternate evacuation routes in addition to GPS (in case of road closures)
- Medications (minimum 2 week supply, with clearly labeled instructions)
- Non-adherent bandage pads
- Plastic trash cans with lids (can be used to store water)
- Portable livestock panels
- Radio (solar, hand-cranked and/or battery operated)
- Rope or lariat
- Saline solution (for rinsing wounds)
- Shovel
- Sterile lubricant (water-based)
- Thermometer (digital)
- Tincture of green soap
- Tourniquet
- Towel and washcloth
- Tweezers
- Water buckets
- Whip, prods
- Wire cutters



# LIVESTOCK EVACUATION KIT

- 7-10 day supply of feed and water
- Batteries (flashlight, radio)
- Copies of veterinary records and proof of ownership
- Cotton halter
- Duct tape
- Emergency contact list
- Flashlight
- Heavy gloves (leather)
- Instructions
  - Diet: record the diet for your animals.
  - Medications: list each animal separately, and for each medication include the drug name, dose and frequency. Provide veterinary and pharmacy contact information for refills.
- Knife (sharp, all-purpose)
- Maps of local area and alternate evacuation routes in addition to GPS (in case of road closures)



- Nose leads
- Plastic trash cans with lids (can be used to store water)
- Portable livestock panels
- Radio (solar, hand-cranked and/or battery operated)
- Rope or lariat
- Shovel
- Water buckets
- Whip, prods
- Wire cutters

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# BACKYARD POULTRY/BIRDS EVACUATION KIT

Be sure to include backyard poultry in your plan.

- Leg bands with an emergency telephone number and photos of birds can help you identify them if they escape or get lost.
- Plastic poultry transport crates/coops work well for transporting chickens. Transfer birds to more suitable housing as soon as possible to facilitate feeding and watering.
- At the evacuation site, house birds away from noisy areas and other flocks and protect them from the weather and predators.
- Vehicle interiors should be warmed in winter or cooled in summer before transporting birds.
- Line crates or cages with shavings or other absorbent material for ease of cleaning.
- Feed and water for 7 -10 days. Vitamin and electrolyte packs (Stress packs) may help ease the stress.
- Sufficient feeders and waterers for the number of birds.
- Detergent, disinfectant, gloves and other cleaning supplies for cleaning cages, feeders and drinkers.
- Extra absorbent bedding material (newspapers can work temporarily) to line cages or temporary coops.
- If evacuating chicks, consider their special needs (heat, food, equipment).



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# EVACUATING BIRDS, REPTILES, SMALL MAMMALS AND OTHER PETS

Identification, medical records, and proof of ownership are essential for all pets. Transportation of the species mentioned in this section may require additional attention and care in order to decrease chances of stress-induced illness or death. To decrease the risk of disease transmission, keep animals from different sources separated as much as possible and use the best possible hygiene.

## Birds

- Transportation of pet birds is best accomplished using small, secure, covered carriers to avoid injury.
- If traveling in cold weather, always warm the interior of your vehicle before moving your bird(s) from the house to the vehicle.
- Transfer your bird(s) to a standard cage upon arrival at the evacuation site; covering the cage may reduce stress; make the transfer in a small, enclosed room to reduce the risk of escape.
- Keep birds in quiet areas and do not allow them out of the cage in unfamiliar surroundings. Provide fresh food and water daily.
- If your bird appears ill, lower the cage perch, food dish, and water bowl and consult a veterinarian as soon as possible.
- In addition to the pertinent items listed under small animal evacuation kit, include:
  - necessary dietary supplements
  - plant mister for cooling birds in hot weather
  - hot water bottle for warming birds in cold weather
  - materials to line the bottom of the cage
  - cage perch
  - toys

## Reptiles

- Transportation of small reptiles can be accomplished using a pillowcase, cloth sack, or small transport carrier.
- If possible, promote defecation before transporting the animal (for example, allow tortoises, lizards, or snakes to soak in a shallow water bath before bagging or caging).
- Transfer your pet to a secure cage at the evacuation site as soon as possible and if appropriate.
- In addition to the pertinent items listed under small animal evacuation kit, include:
  - essential dietary supplements
  - water bowl for soaking
  - spray bottle for misting
  - extra bags or newspapers
  - heating pad
  - battery-operated heat source or other appropriate heat source
  - extra batteries
  - appropriate handling gloves/supplies
- Since most reptiles do not eat daily, feeding during evacuation circumstances may increase stress. Determine if feeding is in the animal's best interest, especially if the container may become fouled.
- Housing at the evacuation facility should be consistent

with that required by the reptile. If possible, place the enclosure in a controlled environment, away from areas of heavy traffic, loud noises, and vibrations.

- Make sure the container housing the reptile is escape proof. Nonetheless, plan for escapes.

### Amphibians

- Transportation of amphibians can be accomplished using watertight plastic bags, such as the ones used for pet fish transport; or plastic containers, such as plastic shoeboxes or plastic food containers with snap-on lids.
- It is best to place only one species or, if possible, only one animal per container.
- Make small ventilation holes in the upper wall or plastic lid. Smooth the inner surface of the holes with a file or sandpaper to prevent injury to the animal.
- For terrestrial or semi aquatic amphibians, use a tiny amount of water, or moistened paper towels, clean foam rubber, or moss as a suitable substrate.
- For aquatic species, fill the plastic bag one third full of water, inflate the bag with fresh air and close with a knot or rubber band. It is best to use clean water from the animal's enclosure to minimize physiologic stress.
- Care must be taken to monitor water and air temperature, humidity, lighting, and nutrition

during the time that the animal is at the evacuation facility. Housing at the evacuation facility should be consistent with that required by the amphibian.

- If possible, place the enclosure, in a controlled environment, away from areas of heavy traffic, loud noises, and vibrations.
- Make sure that the container housing the amphibian is escape proof. Nonetheless, plan for escapes.
- Take an extra container of water, clean moist paper towels or clean moss as is appropriate in case any of your pet's containers break or leak.
- Feeding during evacuation circumstances may increase stress so it may not be in the animal's best interests to supply food, especially if the water may become fouled.

### Other Small Animals

- Transportation of most small mammals (ferrets, hamsters, gerbils, rats, mice, guinea pigs, etc.) is best accomplished using a secure, covered carrier or cage to reduce stress.
- In addition to the pertinent items listed under small animal evacuation kit, include:
  - necessary dietary supplements
  - extra bedding materials
  - appropriate exercise equipment

# AN EVACUATION ORDER HAS BEEN ISSUED

Evacuate your family, including your animals, as early as possible. By leaving early, you will decrease the chance of becoming a disaster victim yourself.

- Bring your dogs, cats, and other small animals indoors.
- Make sure all animals have some form of identification securely fastened to them (or their cage, in the case of smaller, caged pets). The utilization of permanent identification is encouraged.
- Place all small pets, including cats and small dogs, inside individual transportable carriers. When stressed, animals that normally get along may become aggressive towards each other.
- Secure leashes on all large dogs.
- Load larger animal cages/carriers into your vehicle. These will serve as temporary housing for your animals, if needed.
- Load the animal evacuation kit and supplies into your vehicle.
- Call your prearranged animal evacuation site to confirm availability of space.
- Implement your equine/livestock evacuation plan.
- If evacuation of horses/livestock is impossible, relocate them to the safest place possible based on the type of imminent disaster and the environment, realizing that the situation could be life threatening.
  - Make sure they have access to hay, or an appropriate and safe free-choice food source; clean water; and the safest living area possible, including high ground above flood level.
  - Do not rely on automatic watering systems, because power may be lost.
  - The decision to leave your horses/livestock in the field or in the barn should be based on the risks of injury resulting from the disaster as well as from the horse's/livestock's immediate environment during that disaster.
  - Factors to consider include the stability of the barn, the risk of flooding, and the amount of trees and debris in the fields.
  - If time permits, secure or remove all outdoor objects that could turn into dangerous flying debris.



# NOW WHAT DO YOU DO?

## After the disaster

- Survey the area inside and outside your home to identify sharp objects, dangerous materials, dangerous wildlife, contaminated water, downed power lines, or other hazards.
- Examine your animals closely, and contact your veterinarian immediately if you observe injuries or signs of illness.
- Familiar scents and landmarks may have changed, and this can confuse your animals.
- Release equines/livestock in safe and enclosed areas only. Initial release should take place during daylight hours when the animals can be closely observed.
- Release cats, dogs, and other small animals indoors only. They could encounter dangerous wildlife and debris if allowed outside unsupervised and unrestrained.
- Release birds and reptiles only if necessary and only when they are calm and in an enclosed room.
- Reintroduce food in small servings, gradually working up to full portions if animals have been without food for a prolonged period of time.
- Allow uninterrupted rest/sleep to allow animals to recover from the trauma and stress.
- If your animals are lost, physically check animal control and animal shelters DAILY for lost animals. Some emergency response agencies may also use social media (Facebook, etc.) to post information about lost and found animals.
- Post waterproof lost animal notices and notify local law enforcement, animal care and control officials, veterinarians, and your neighbors of any lost animals (utilize online resources for lost and found animals).
- If your animal is lost and has a microchip, notify the microchip registry that your animal is missing.



## The American Veterinary Medical Association



The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) was established in 1863 and is the largest veterinary medical association in the world. As a not-for-profit association established to advance the science and art of veterinary medicine, the AVMA is recognized as the national voice for the veterinary profession. The association's more than 85,000 members are involved in the full spectrum of areas of veterinary medical practice including private, corporate, academic, industrial, governmental, military, and public health services.

### AVMA Emergency Preparedness and Response Efforts



The AVMA has emergency preparedness and response educational resources available for veterinary professionals, emergency preparedness officials, and the public. The AVMA's Saving the Whole Family brochure is available for download in English and Spanish language versions from the AVMA website. Printed copies are also available for purchase from the AVMA. The AVMA's Disaster Preparedness for Veterinary Practices brochure and the AVMA's Emergency Preparedness Guide are available for download from the AVMA website. In addition, the AVMA's Disaster Preparedness website ([avma.org/disaster](http://avma.org/disaster)) contains links to a wide range of resources including state and federal legislative and regulatory information and other disaster preparedness information and resources.

### AVMA Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams



For over 20 years, the AVMA's Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams (VMAT) have been involved in national animal emergency preparedness and response activities through boots on the ground response during disasters and by providing training to veterinary response organizations.

VMAT was founded in 1992 in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew which caused significant damage in Florida and inflicted heavy losses on animals and the veterinary infrastructure. In 1993, the AVMA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), making VMAT part of the Federal Response Plan (now the National Response Framework) as part of the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS). In 1994, the AVMA entered into an MOU with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, making VMAT available to respond in the event of an animal health emergency.

Over the years, VMAT members provided on the ground veterinary support during a number of disasters and emergencies including the Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma in 2005 and the World Trade Center Attacks in 2001 as well as many other events.

In 2008 the federal law changed, and the public-private partnership was dissolved. This led to the creation of two distinct veterinary response programs: the National Veterinary Response Teams (NVRT), part of NDMS at HHS, and the AVMA's VMAT



program. These organizations collaborate, communicate and cooperate with each other on issues related to animal emergency preparedness and response. MOUs between the AVMA and HHS signed in 2008 and 2012 highlight the relationship.

With the change in the federal law, VMAT's program evolved. The current VMAT program focuses on state-level response. AVMA VMAT teams are available to deploy at the request of the state to assist in animal emergency response and deploy within the state's incident command structure. VMAT has three missions: 1) Providing on-the-ground assessment of veterinary infrastructure following a disaster. Reports provided by VMAT volunteers in the field can be utilized by state emergency response officials to direct resources to impacted areas. 2) Augmenting state veterinary response resources to provide veterinary care to animals affected by a disaster. 3) Provide training on a wide range of veterinary disaster response topics to veterinary response organizations, veterinary medical associations, veterinary students and other related organizations through the VMAT U program.

**Learn more [avma.org/vmat](https://avma.org/vmat)**  **@AVMAVMAT**

*The VMAT program is funded by the American Veterinary Medical Foundation.*

## **The American Veterinary Medical Foundation**



The American Veterinary Medical Foundation (AVMF) is the charitable arm of the AVMA. For over 50 years, AVMF has been dedicated to advancing the well-being and medical care of animals. Charitable contributions and support to the foundation help veterinarians help animals. Along with supporting the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and its initiatives, the AVMF's four strategic initiatives include: Humane Outreach-Animal Welfare, Education and Public Awareness, Research Support, and Student Enhancement. In the last decade, AVMF has awarded grants totaling over \$10,000,000. As a four time 4-star rated nonprofit organization as named by Charity Navigator, the AVMF is the most comprehensive veterinary directed charity serving animal health and welfare through the veterinary medical profession.

The foundation supports the AVMA VMAT program and created the Animal Disaster Relief and Response Fund (ADRR) to provide financial assistance and disaster related grants that provide reimbursement for veterinarians that provide emergency medical care to animals impacted by disaster, for veterinary medical supplies and temporary boarding costs as well as relief to veterinarians whose veterinary practices suffer damage to their infrastructure in a disaster. The AVMF also works to increase public awareness and support disaster pet preparedness activities across the country.

**For more information [avmf.org](https://avmf.org)**

# Support the work of the American Veterinary Medical Foundation's Animal Disaster Relief and Response Fund!

Saving the Whole Family helps meet the needs of animals and the veterinary community before, during and after disasters. Saving the Whole Family also educates pet owners on developing emergency preparedness plans for their pets.

## **Disaster can strike at any time with sometimes little and many times no notice.**

Veterinarians, the ultimate animal care providers, must be prepared to deal with a variety of animal health situations on a daily basis. Due to the frequency and unpredictability of natural disasters, emergency medical training and preparedness are key components of veterinary education.

Core to the AVMF's mission is to support the health, well-being and compassionate medical care of animals. Caring for animals in need is one of the most rewarding opportunities for veterinarians. In 2005, the AVMF created the Animal Disaster Relief and Response Fund (ADRR) to provide financial assistance and animal medical care in times of disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes, wildfires and tornadoes. We provide reimbursement and relief for veterinarians who care for the animal victims of disaster and for the restoration of veterinary infrastructure affected by disaster.

Grants are provided for immediate disaster needs, and to help provide training, disaster preparedness and response planning. There are many ways you can play a part in supporting these efforts.



To ensure a continued level of excellence in the face of tragedy, AVMF needs your help:

The AVMF provides several grants each year to veterinarians, The Veterinary Medical Assistance Team (VMAT) program, and national organizations for reimbursement, relief, disaster planning, training, and response efforts. We are committed to raising funds to go directly towards the Animal Disaster Relief and Response efforts.

If you would like to contribute to these efforts, visit [avmf.org/donate](https://avmf.org/donate) or mail checks to AVMF, 1931 N. Meacham Rd., Suite 100, Schaumburg, IL 60173 [info@avmf.org](mailto:info@avmf.org)

# CONTACT & CONTRIBUTION INFORMATION



## For additional information about the AVMA disaster relief efforts

### **AVMA**

1931 N. Meacham Rd., Suite 100  
Schaumburg, IL 60173-4360  
800-248-2862, ext. 6633

[avma.org/disaster](http://avma.org/disaster)

## For additional information and to support AVMA/AVMF disaster relief efforts

### **AVMF**

1931 N. Meacham Rd., Suite 100  
Schaumburg, IL 60173-4360  
800-248-2862, ext. 6709

[avmf.org/ADRR](http://avmf.org/ADRR)

## Acknowledgements

The AVMF for its continued support of AVMA disaster relief efforts

The American Association of Equine Practitioners [aaep.org](http://aaep.org)

The American Association of Bovine Practitioners [aabb.org](http://aabb.org)

The Association of Reptilian & Amphibian Veterinarians [arav.org](http://arav.org)

Association of Avian Veterinarians [aav.org](http://aav.org)

American Association of Avian Pathologists [aaap.info](http://aaap.info)

