



Pet care

Learn what to do if you're evacuating with animals and what support may be available.

I need a pet-friendly hotel room. Can ESS help?

If you need accommodation and have a pet, tell your ESS responder. They will try to find a hotel or motel that allows pets. However, space is limited and not guaranteed. Options will depend on availability and local resources.

What if there are no pet-friendly hotels/motels available?

You may need to stay with friends/family or look for pet-friendly alternatives like camping or staying in an RV.

I need pet food during an evacuation, what should I do?

Let your ESS responder know. You may be eligible for an incidental allowance that can help you cover pet food and temporary emergency care.

Where can I get help with pet care during an evacuation?

There is no guarantee of available pet care. Common places in your community that may be able to help include local animal shelters, rescue groups, and veterinary clinics.

What options are there for my exotic pet?

ESS does not offer support for exotic pets. However, if you are eligible for an incidental allowance, this could be used to help cover pet food.

What do I do with my livestock animals?

Contact your local emergency management office or animal control agency. They can provide guidance on livestock evacuations and emergency shelter options in your area.

What should I do if I get separated from my pet?

Report your lost pet to local animal control or shelters right away. Having a recent photo ID of your pet and ensuring they have ID tags or microchips can help pet recovery.

Pet preparedness checklist

What to bring if you evacuate with a pet

- ☐ Leash, collar, and ID tag
- ☐ Crate or pet carrier (label with your name and phone number)
- ☐ Food and water (enough for at least 3-5 days)
- ☐ Food and water dishes
- ☐ Pet medications (if needed)
- ☐ Vaccination records or vet information
- ☐ Waste bags, litter, or cleaning supplies
- ☐ Comfort items (toys, blankets, bedding)
- ☐ Photo of your pet (in case of separation)

TIP: Make a grab-and-go bag for your pet, just like you would for yourself. This helps ensure their safety and comfort during an evacuation.