Pet Emergency Evacuation Checklist

Use these tips to help you make sure your pet's basic needs are met if you need to evacuate.

Things to do before you need to evacuate:

Find a safe place for your pet to stay.
Not all hotels accept pets, and shelters are often overwhelmed during a natural disaster. Make sure you have a safe place to take your pet, so they don't get left behind.

Choose a caregiver for your pets.
A caregiver is someone who can help evacuate your pets in an emergency if you're unable to do it yourself. Choose someone who is trustworthy, is close by and has access to your home. Make sure they know the plan and have a key or access code to your home.

Prepare your pet's emergency supply kit.
Have a kit ready with all of your pet's immediate needs like food, medication and a leash or carrier. Plan to have enough supplies in case you can't return to your home for several days or weeks.

Supplies to include in your pet emergency kit:

Food and water
Have at least five to seven days' worth of food and water for each pet in airtight containers. Include bowls and a manual can opener.

Medications
If your pet is on any medication, make sure you have it with you in a childproof container that's clearly labeled with the name, dose and strength.

Carrier or crate
Have a portable crate or carrier to keep your pet calm and safe while traveling or staying in a new place.

Comfort items
A favorite toy or bedding can help comfort your pet while they're away from their home.

Sanitation
Have a supply of plastic bags and cleaning wipes to clean up after your pet. Pet pads or litter boxes are essential.

Leash
You'll need a leash or harness and a collar for your pet. Make sure they have an ID tag with current information like address, phone number and microchip number.

Medical records and microchip info
Some shelters may require proof that your pet's shots are up to date, so it's important to have their medical records. If your pet is chipped, include the microchip info in case they get lost.