



PALO ALTO
HUMANE
SOCIETY

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Helping animals through intervention, education, advocacy

PREPARE YOUR ANIMALS: They Can't Help Themselves!

PLAN AHEAD TO KEEP YOUR PETS SAFE

Before a disaster:

- Call local motels and hotels to find ones that allow pets.
- Locate animal shelters, boarding kennels, and veterinarians in the area that would hold animals in case of a disaster.
- Ask friends, relatives, or neighbors if they could temporarily foster your pets in the event of an emergency.
- Have your pets microchipped. Ask your vet or local animal shelter for more information on this quick, easy, and permanent identification process.

Most evacuation shelters won't allow pets, so make alternate plans now!

AS A LAST RESORT... IF YOU MUST LEAVE YOUR PETS

Do:

- Confine pets to the house, preferably in a room with few or no windows.
- Separate dogs and cats or (dogs of different sizes) to avoid fights.
- Put out plenty of fresh water and dry food. Less palatable food is best, as your pets will be less likely to overeat.
- Use non-spill bowls for food and water. Or leave a tap dripping as a water source.
- Leave a note or sticker on the front door or windows notifying rescuers of animals inside.
- Remember to turn off your electricity before leaving. Only turn off the gas if there's a leak or other immediate danger to the gas lines.
- If at all possible, have someone check on your animals at least once a day.

Don't:

- Don't leave your pets outside to fend for themselves! A post-disaster area is a dangerous place. Your pet will be scared, confused, and disoriented.
- Don't leave your animals unattended where there is a swimming pool. They could drown attempting to drink.
- Don't leave vitamin tablets accessible to your pets. These are usually very tasty, and pets may eat all of them at once, causing salt poisoning or other problems.



LOST AND FOUND PETS

If you lose a pet:

- Place “lost pet” ads in local newspapers, and read the “found pet” ads.
- If your lost pet is a purebred, contact the local rescue groups for your breed. If possible, also contact your animal’s breeder.
- Post flyers around your neighborhood and in local shelters. Include your pet’s description (and a photo, if possible), along with your name and phone number.
- Visit all local shelters at least every other day. Visit shelters outside of your area, too.
- Inform neighbors, mail carriers, garbage collectors, and so on about your missing pet.
- Search your neighborhood on foot, preferably at dusk or dawn when it’s quiet. Walk slowly and call your pet’s name in a soothing voice. Shake a box of dry pet food to attract their attention. Drag a piece of your clothing to your home to leave a scent.
- Search farther than you might expect your pet to travel. Remember, your pet will be scared and confused, and may wander away from your home instead of toward it. Un-neutered males often travel farther than neutered ones. (Another reason to have your pet altered!)
- Don’t give up! Pets have been found months after a disaster.



If you find someone else’s pet:

- Contact local humane societies and animals shelters.
- Check local newspapers, bulletin boards, etc. for “lost pet” notices.
- Put up “found pet” signs with your phone number. If possible, create a poster that has your phone number and, if possible, a photo of the animal.
- Call _____.
- Keep the pet at your house, or find someone else who can keep it until the owner is found.

When you find your pet

- If you see your pet outdoors, it may be so frightened by recent events that it runs from you. Try catching it with a humane box trap.
- After you catch your pet, use caution when handling it. A scared or injured animal may bite or scratch.
- Examine your pet closely for injuries and signs of dehydration or illness. Take it to a veterinarian as soon as possible for a thorough examination.
- Allow your pet to readjust at its own pace. It may not eat much for a few days, or it may hide.
- Provide an area (such as a closet) where your pet can hide and feel safe, but which is easily accessible to you. That will allow you to keep an eye on your pet to make sure it’s healthy. It will also enable you to catch your pet quickly if further disaster strikes and you need to evacuate your home.
- Comfort your pet, but also give it some time by itself. Patience and affection will help your animal cope with the disruption and return to normal.

Materials produced by the Palo Alto Humane Society in conjunction with the American Red Cross Northern California Disaster Preparedness Network