

Evacuating with pets

ACTION CHECKLIST

Take pets when you can evacuate safely, using a carrier or lead and a destination that accepts them. Keep food, water, medicines, identification and veterinary information together. Do not delay escape into immediate danger or reenter a hazardous building for an animal.

[] Contain animals early

Use a secure carrier or lead before loading or opening doors. Distress and noise can cause animals to run.

[] Confirm the destination

Ask whether pets are accepted and what documents or carriers are needed. Make a backup arrangement with a trusted person.

[] Pack basic care

Take normal food, safe water, medicines, waste supplies and a familiar blanket if readily available. Include pet water in the household total.

[] Keep identification current

Use a tag and a recent photo, and check microchip contact details before emergencies. Keep veterinary records privately.

[] Avoid unsafe rescue

Tell reachable responders where an animal may be, but do not return to fire, floodwater or active danger yourself.

WATCH FOR

A service animal and a pet may have different accommodation rules. Never leave animals in a hot vehicle while arranging shelter.

IF HELP IS UNAVAILABLE

Use a trusted host or verified animal-care arrangement rather than assuming public shelters accept pets. Keep the family and animals together where safe and feasible.

Updated 2026-10-02 | Civilian educational guidance. Seek qualified help when reachable and safe; do not delay immediate protective action.

Full guide: <https://ospreyzero.com/emergencies/pet-evacuation/>

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