



Before a disaster

Plan Ahead

Determine the best place for animal confinement in case of a disaster. Find alternate water sources in case power is lost and pumps are not working or have a hand pump installed. You should have a minimum of three days of feed and water on hand.



Evacuation

Decide where you want to take your pets if evacuation is necessary. Have several sites in mind. Familiarize yourself with several evacuation routes to your destination.

Identification

Microchips are best as they are a permanent form of identification. External identification, such as tags on collars should also be worn. Ensure the tags include your phone number. Keep identification information with you to verify ownership. Add a contact in your phone for each animal. Include a photo, microchip number, photo of current vaccine records and other important information.

Medical Records and Vaccinations

Your pets need to have current vaccinations. Keep medical histories and record special instructions, allergies, and dietary requirements. Write down contact information for your vet.

Vehicles

Be sure your animals and evacuation kits will fit in your vehicle with you. If you don't have your own vehicle, enough space for your animals, or are unable to evacuate your animals on your own, make arrangements with friends and neighbors before disaster strikes.

Fire Preparation

In high risk areas, clear fire breaks around your house and property lines. Keep fire fighting tools in one location.

Flood Preparation

Identify available high ground on your property or other nearby evacuation sites. Be familiar with road availability during flood conditions.

During a disaster

- Listen to the Emergency Alert System (EAS) on the television or radio and your cellphone for wireless emergency alerts.
- If possible, evacuate your pets early.
- Take all vaccination and medical records, the emergency disaster kit, and enough food, and water for two weeks.
- Call your destination to make sure the site is still available.
- If you must leave your animals, leave them in the preselected area appropriate for the disaster type with enough food and water for 2-3 days.

After a disaster

- Check that fences are intact and your home and property are free of sharp objects or chemicals that could injure your pets. Be aware of downed power lines, fallen trees, and debris.
- Beware of local wildlife that could have entered the area and may pose a threat.
- Keep your pets in a carrier or on leash. Familiar scents and landmarks may have changed, and animals can easily become confused and lost.
- If you find someone else's animal, isolate it from your animals and report it to WCRAS.
- Use caution when approaching and handling strange or frightened animals.
- If you have lost an animal, contact WCRAS.
- Listen to the EAS for groups that may be accepting lost animals.

Practice your plan

Emergency Contact Information

Have your emergency contact information in one easily accessible place. Be prepared to contact the key animal disaster resources in Washoe County.

- **Washoe County Emergency Management:**
Phone: 311 or 775.328.2003
- **Washoe County Regional Animal Services:**
Phone: 775-322-3647
- **Sign-up for Emergency Wireless Alerts at:**
www.washoecounty.gov/em/RegionalAlerts





Checklist

Step 1: Documents

Gather you pet's important information. Store hard copies in a safe space.

- Copy of veterinary records
- Rabies certificate
- Vaccination documents
- Medical summary
- Copy of prescriptions for medication
- Proof of ownership (licensing or adoption records)
- Pet description (Name, Breed, Sex, Color, Weight etc.)

- Recent photographs of each of your pets
- Waterproof container for documents
- Microchip information (Microchip number, name and number of microchip company)

- Important contact information (name, phone, and address)

Step 2: Food, Water, and Medications

Make a kit with these essential items. Keep it handy in case you need to evacuate quickly .

- 2-week supply of food for each animal stored in waterproof containers
- 2-week supply of water for each animal
- Non-spill food and water dishes
- Manual can opener
- Feeding instructions for each animal
- 2-week supply of medication for each animal (if necessary)
- Medication instructions (if applicable)

Step 3: Other Supplies

Complete your kit by adding other important items.

- Leash, collar with ID, and harness
- Toys
- Appropriate-sized pet carrier with bedding, blanket or towel
- Pet first aid kit
- Cleaning supplies for accidents (paper towels, plastic bags, and disinfectant)
- Litterbox and litter (cats)