



Office of
Emergency
Management

www.lakecountyfl.gov
352-343-9420

Learning About

PETS & DISASTERS



PLAN FOR PETS

Make arrangements for your pets as part of your household disaster planning. If you must evacuate it is best to take your pets with you.

Animals left behind in a disaster can be injured, lost or killed. If they are turned loose to fend for themselves, they are likely to become victims of exposure, starvation, predators, contaminated food or water, or accidents. In Lake County, pets are allowed in designated pet-friendly shelters.

Items to include in a pet's emergency kit:

- Food, water and medicine for five days
- Medical and veterinary records
- Toys, blankets or bedding
- Litter box and litter
- ID tag attached to pet
- Pet carrier and leash
- Current photos of pet with physical description
- Container to carry everything

Items to take to a Lake County pet-friendly shelter include:

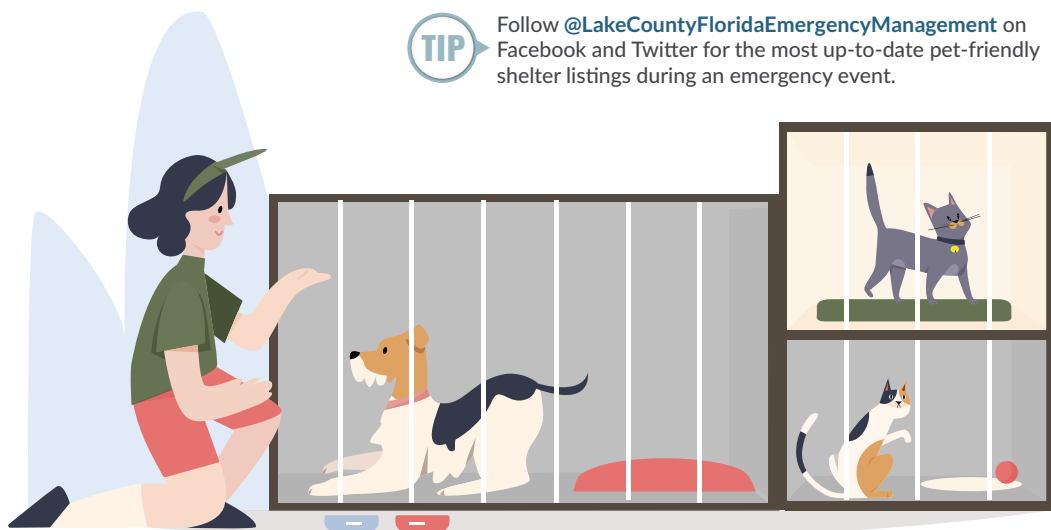
- Food and water
- Medical and veterinary records
- Litter box and litter
- ID tag attached to pet
- Pet carrier and leash
- Container to carry everything

TIPS FOR PETS & DISASTERS

- Buy a pet carrier that allows your pet to stand up and turn around inside. Train your pet to become comfortable with the carrier. Use a variety of training methods such as feeding it in the carrier or placing a favorite toy or blanket inside.
- If your pet is on medication or a special diet, find out from your veterinarian what you should do in case you have to evacuate. Try to get an extra supply of medications.
- Make sure your pet has a properly fitted collar that includes current license and rabies tags. Include an identification tag that has your name, address and phone number.
- If your dog normally wears a choke-chain collar, have a leather or nylon collar available if you have to go to a shelter.
- Keep your pet's shots current and know where their records are. Kennels and pet-friendly shelters require proof of current rabies and all regular vaccinations before accepting pets.
- Contact motels and hotels in communities outside of your area to find out if they will accept pets in an emergency.
- An evacuation order may come, or a disaster may strike when you are at work or not at home. Make arrangements in advance for a trusted neighbor to take your pets and meet you at a specified location. Be sure that the person is comfortable with your pets, knows where your animals are likely to be, knows where your disaster supplies are kept and has a key to your home.



Follow [@LakeCountyFloridaEmergencyManagement](#) on Facebook and Twitter for the most up-to-date pet-friendly shelter listings during an emergency event.



DURING A DISASTER

- Bring your pets inside immediately. Animals have instincts about severe weather changes and will often isolate themselves if they are afraid. Bringing them inside early can stop them from running away. Never leave a pet outside or tied up during a storm.
- Separate dogs and cats. Even if your dogs and cats normally get along, anxiety caused by an emergency can cause pets to act differently than normal.
- Keep small children away from all animals. The anxiety of an emergency can cause animals to act irrationally.
- Birds must eat daily to survive. In an emergency, you may not be able to reach your birds quickly. Talk to your veterinarian or local pet store about special food dispensers that regulate the amount of food a bird is given. Make sure that the bird is caged, and the cage is covered by a thin cloth or sheet to provide security and filtered light. Pet-friendly shelters in Lake County will accept birds if caged properly.

AFTER A DISASTER

- In the first few days after the disaster, leash your pets when they go outside. Always maintain close contact.
- Familiar scents and landmarks may be altered, and your pet may become confused and lost. In addition, snakes and other dangerous animals may be brought into the area with floodwaters. Downed power lines are also a hazard.
- The behavior of your pets may change after an emergency. Normally quiet and friendly pets may become aggressive or defensive. Watch animals closely. Leash dogs and place them in a fenced yard with access to shelter and water.