

## **Immediate Recovery Concerns for Animals**

When the disaster has passed, it is not uncommon to find that once familiar surroundings have been rearranged. Pets that rely on visual and scent clues may become disoriented.

Here are some guidelines for the recovery period:

Check your pet for injury and exposure to chemicals. If you have any concerns about the health of your pet or its exposure to hazardous materials, contact a veterinarian before you attempt to treat the animal.

If you have to move to new surroundings, do not remove your pet from its crate until it is calm. Do so only in a closed room.

Give your pet small amounts of food and water several times throughout the day. The volumes of food may be increased to normal over 3 or 4 days.

Let your pet have plenty of uninterrupted sleep. If you still have your pet's favorite toys, encourage play. This will allow the pet to recover from stress and trauma.

Avoid activities with your pet, such as bathing, excessive exercise, or diet supplements. Try to avoid diet changes.

If you and your pet are separated, pay *daily* visits to local shelters, animal control facilities, veterinary offices, and kennels until you have found the pet. A phone call is less effective than a visit. You can also post photos of your lost pet. If your pet has tattoos, a microchip, or other permanent identification, this will increase the chances of finding it. Collars and tags are sometimes lost.

Share your experience with friends and family. Talking about your experiences will help you deal with them and offers great stress relief.