

Responding to Disasters with Pets

Stay calm and assess the situation.

Never put yourself or others at risk. Do not attempt to rescue your pet if your life or health or that of others may be placed in danger.

Crate your pet immediately. If you do not, your pet may sense danger. This will make the pet want to hide and become more difficult to catch and crate.

Listen to the Emergency Alert System on your radio for instructions on what you should do and whether special arrangements are being made for people with pets. Follow these guidelines and incorporate them into your actions.

In some situations, circumstances may force you to leave your pet behind. You should consider leaving your pet behind only as a last resort. If you must leave without your pet, you should leave the animal *in* your home. Under these conditions, the following advice should be helpful:

You should never leave your pet tied up outside or let it loose to fend for itself.

Do not leave unfamiliar food and treats for your pet. It may overeat, which leads to intestinal problems. Provide water in a heavy bowl that cannot be tipped over.

Paste labels clearly for rescue workers to see how many and what kind of animals they will encounter and where they can contact somebody familiar with how to take care of the animals.

Make sure somebody knows where you can be contacted and what the needs and location of your pets are.

Leave instructions for animal care for rescue workers.