



WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO EVACUATE WITH YOUR ANIMALS

- Thousands of animals are displaced or injured annually from natural disasters
- Animals are at higher risk of disease, injuries, malnutrition, and mental distress
- Properly preparing your animals to evacuate can reduce the mental stress for both animal and owner
- Reduces burden and risk for first responders rescuing animals



Kail, E. (2018). *Stirring Photos of Animals in the Aftermath of Hurricane Florence*. [Photograph].

 **For more information on animal evacuation and preparedness, talk to your county's Emergency Management Coordinator, local Animal Issues Committee, Personal Vet, or your County's AgriLife Extension Agent.**

DISASTER PREPARATION FOR ANIMALS

PREPARING FOR EVACUATION

- Make sure all animals are up to date on vaccines, medicine refills, are microchipped, and discuss any concerns you have with your local vet
- Make sure you have proper travel equipment such as trailers or carriers that are in working condition
- Practice traveling with your animals to reduce animal stress during an actual evacuation procedure
- Create an emergency survival kit for your animals in addition to a personal survival kit

FINDING EVACUATION SHELTERS

- **Stand Alone Shelters:** These are separate shelters designed to house and care for animals after a disaster. They provide housing, food and water, and clinical care. Both livestock and companion animals can shelter at these locations.
- **Co-locations:** These are shelters where the owner and animal are able to shelter in place together. Unlike traditional animal shelters, owners are expected to provide their own food and equipment for their duration of stay. Most co-locations only allow companion animals instead of livestock.
- **Family/Friends:** Contact a friend or family member that you trust to have the space, equipment, and compatibility to keep your animals safe while you evacuate.

Before evacuating: Check with local emergency management for available shelters and contact the shelter in advance to confirm vaccination and admission requirements.

ANIMAL EVACUATION KIT CHECKLIST

- ☐ Waterproof container for feed and equipment
- ☐ One week's worth of food and water
- ☐ List of emergency contacts
- ☐ First aid kit
- ☐ Map with evacuation routes/shelter locations
- ☐ Extra supply of medicine for animals
- ☐ Familiar toys/bedding
- ☐ Fly/mosquito spray (**livestock only**)
- ☐ Hoof knife, nippers, pick, and rasp (**livestock only**)
- ☐ Carrier(s) big enough for bedding and food for each animal.
- ☐ **Printed or digital copies of medical records, vaccination records and proof of ownership**



*Hens all safely tucked inside a pet carrier, ready to evacuate.
[Photograph]. (2026a)*

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT AN ANIMAL SHELTER:

Shelters are a reliable resource designed to support and help the community, but there are some extra measures to help make sheltering your animal easier:

- Bring all pet records and proof of ownership
- Bring an evacuation kit
- Make sure the shelter has the space to take in your animal
- Bring proper carriers for each animal, and monitor your animals while inside the shelter (animals are more prone to fights and aggression during disasters)
- Bring your own food and equipment if sheltering at a co-location

REFERENCES

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EXPLORE THE HOMEOWNER'S HANDBOOK

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