

# PET & LIVESTOCK HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS GUIDE

---

*Planning – Evacuation – Return*

---



---

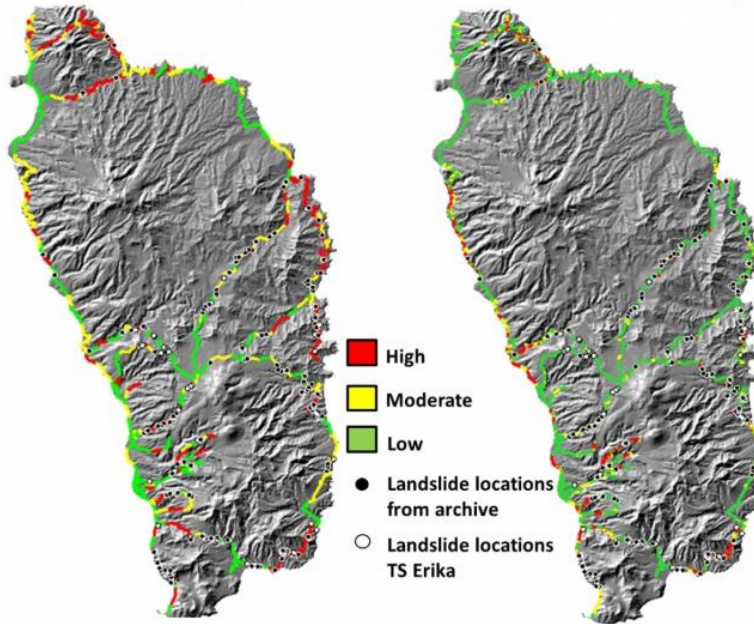
*Saint Nicholas Animal Rescue - SNAR*

---

Figure 1 Left: Landslide susceptibility map along the major roads of Dominica as generated from the road analysis. Right: landslide susceptibility of the road network taken from the national scale landslide map.

**Based on road network analysis**

**Based on national scale susceptibility map**



Road sections of Dominica.





## **Do YOU Have a Plan for Your Pets and Livestock Should Disaster Strike?**

Any disaster, whether it's a flood, hurricane, tornado or earthquake, can catch you off guard and leave you in danger. It's important to have a plan in place ahead of severe weather to protect your animals and livestock. Pets, farm animals and livestock rely on their humans to protect them and keep them safe in all types of emergencies. The steps we take or don't take will directly impact their well-being.

# DO NOT WAIT UNTIL IT IS TOO LATE



Countless times people have been told to leave their homes for a “short time,” only to find they cannot return for days or weeks. Even disasters like gas leaks and minor flooding can keep you from tending to your animals for an extended period of time. To prevent situations such as these:

## TAKE YOUR ANIMALS WITH YOU

It is best to be overly cautious when a disaster advisory or warning has been issued. Preparing ahead of time and acting quickly are the best ways to keep you and your family, including your animals, out of danger. Familiarize yourself with each type of disaster that could affect your area.

Some common hazards include:

- Flooding
- Fires (structure fires and wild fires) Earthquake
- Hurricanes Tornadoes
- Other severe weather (windstorms, lightning, hail, blizzards)
- Man-made disasters (chemical spills, nuclear incidents)
- Terrorism

Be prepared for the possible disruption of services for extended periods of time, including gas, electricity, phone (cellular and land lines), internet service, and local sources of food, water and fuel.

Have a plan in place and practice the plan prior to a disaster. This will help you successfully evacuate and maintain the safety of your family and your animals.

# PLANNING



**Schedule an appointment to talk to your VETERINARIAN about disaster planning.**

- Assemble an animal EVACUATION KIT.
- Develop an evacuation plan for all of your animals and practice the plan.
- If you live in an apartment, make sure your animals are on record with management and they are able to be evacuated using the stairs. Teach dogs how to go up and down stairs to better assist rescue personnel.
- Keep written directions to your home near your telephone. This will help you and others explain to emergency responders exactly how to get to your home.
- Identify alternate sources of food and water.
- Have well maintained backup generators and a source of fuel for use in food-animal production operations.
- Keep vehicles well maintained and full of gas.
- Keep emergency cash on hand. (Remember: ATMs may not work.)

**If you have horses or livestock, good barn and field maintenance can reduce danger. If evacuating is impossible, decide on the safest housing option for your animals, realizing that the situation is still life threatening.**

**Assess the stability and safety of barns and other structures, promptly remove dead trees, and minimize debris in fields and the immediate environment. If you live in an area prone to wildfires, clear away brush and maintain a defensible space around structures.**

# EVACUATION



**Evacuate your family, including your animals, as early as possible. By leaving early, you will decrease the chance of becoming a disaster victim yourself.**

- Bring your dogs, cats, and other small animals indoors.
- Make sure all animals have some form of identification securely fastened to them (or their cage, in the case of smaller, caged pets). The utilization of permanent identification is encouraged.
- Place all small pets, including cats and small dogs, inside individual transportable carriers. When stressed, animals that normally get along may become aggressive towards each other.
- Load larger animal cages/carriers into your vehicle. These will serve as temporary housing for your animals, if needed.
- Load the animal evacuation kit and supplies into your vehicle.
- Call your prearranged animal evacuation site to confirm availability of space.
- Implement your equine/livestock evacuation plan.
- If evacuation of horses/livestock is impossible, relocate them to the safest place possible based on the type of imminent disaster and the environment, realizing that the situation could be life threatening.
- Make sure they have access to hay, or an appropriate and safe free-choice food source; clean water; and the safest living area possible, including high ground above flood level.
- Do not rely on automatic watering systems, because power may be lost.
- The decision to leave your horses/livestock in the field or in the barn should be based on the risks of injury resulting from the disaster as well as from the horse's/livestock's immediate environment during that disaster.
- Factors to consider include the stability of the barn, the risk of flooding, and the amount of trees and debris in the fields.
- If time permits, secure or remove all outdoor objects that could turn into dangerous flying debris.

# RETURN



- Survey the area inside and outside your home to identify sharp objects, dangerous materials, dangerous wildlife, contaminated water, downed power lines, or other hazards.
- Examine your animals closely, and contact your veterinarian immediately if you observe injuries or signs of illness.
- Familiar scents and landmarks may have changed, and this can confuse your animals.
- Release equines/livestock in safe and enclosed areas only. Initial release should take place during daylight hours when the animals can be closely observed.
- Release cats, dogs, and other small animals indoors only. They could encounter dangerous wildlife and debris if allowed outside unsupervised and unrestrained.
- Release birds and reptiles only if necessary and only when they are calm and in an enclosed room.
- Reintroduce food in small servings, gradually working up to full portions if animals have been without food for a prolonged period of time.
- Allow uninterrupted rest/sleep to allow animals to recover from the trauma and stress.
- If your animals are lost, physically check animal control and animal shelters DAILY for lost animals. Some emergency response agencies may also use social media (Facebook, etc.) to post information about lost and found animals.
- Post waterproof lost animal notices and notify local law enforcement, animal care and control officials, veterinarians, and your neighbors of any lost animals (utilize online resources for lost and found animals).
- If your animal is lost and has a microchip, notify the microchip registry that your animal is missing.

# PART 1

## Pet Disaster Preparedness

In an emergency, your pets will be even more dependent on you for their safety and well-being. Your family's disaster plans must include your furry family members too.

*Part 1 of this guide is primarily about dogs and cats. For tips on disaster planning for livestock, please see Part 2 of this guide.*



### Top Tips for Keeping Your Pets Safe During a Disaster

1. If it's not safe for you to stay in your home during an emergency, it's not safe for them either!
2. Include supplies for your pet in your emergency kit, or assemble an emergency kit for your pet.
3. Make an evacuation plan for you and your pets. Many hotels and shelters do not accept animal guests, other than service animals.

**\*\*NEVER LEAVE A PET CHAINED OUTSIDE DURING AN EMERGENCY\*\***



Leaving an animal tied up outside to weather the storm frightened and alone is not only a prime example of **animal cruelty** but also **illegal**.

**Pet owners who leave their dogs tethered and left to fend for themselves while evacuating during hurricane and flood could face a hefty fine, animal cruelty charges and even jail time!**



**\*\*NEVER LEAVE A PET CHAINED OUTSIDE DURING AN EMERGENCY\*\***

### Tips:

- Plan in advance and do research on places that you can take your animals to for safety
- Designate a safe room indoors that can be easily cleaned inside your home for dogs and cats that are typically not allowed inside your house for emergencies.

# Assemble an Emergency Kit for Your Pet

Keep items in an accessible place and store them in sturdy containers so that they can be carried easily.

Your kit should include:

- Sturdy leashes, harnesses and/or carriers to transport pets safely and ensure that they can't escape.
- Food, drinking water, bowls, cat litter/pan and a manual can opener if you pet eats canned food.
- Medications and copies of medical records stored in a waterproof container.
- A first aid kit.
- Current photos of you with your pet(s) in case they get lost. Since many pets look alike, this will help to eliminate mistaken identity and confusion.
- Information on feeding schedules, medical conditions, behavior problems, and the name and number of your veterinarian in case you have to foster or board your pets.
- Pet beds and toys, if easily transportable.

# Create an Emergency Plan for Your Pet

The best way to protect your household from the effects of a disaster is to have a disaster plan. If you are a pet owner, that plan must include your pets. Being prepared can save their lives.

## **Know a Safe Place to Take Your Pets**

If you have to evacuate your home during a disaster, the best way to protect your pets is to evacuate them too. If it's not safe for you to stay behind then it's not safe to leave pets behind either.

- Know which hotels and motels along your evacuation route will accept pets in an emergency. Call ahead for reservations if you know you may need to evacuate. Ask if no pet policies could be waived in an emergency.
- Most Red Cross shelters cannot accept pets because of health and safety concerns and other considerations.
- Know which friends, relatives, boarding facilities, animal shelters or veterinarians can care for your animals in an emergency. Prepare a list with phone numbers.
- Although your animals may be more comfortable together, be prepared to house them separately.
- Include your pets in evacuation drills so that they become used to entering and traveling in their carriers calmly.
- Make sure that your pet's vaccinations are current and that all dogs and cats are wearing collars with securely fastened, up-to-date identification. Many pet shelters require proof of current vaccinations to reduce the spread of disease.
- Consider having your pet "microchipped" by your veterinarian.

# Help Pets Recover After an Emergency

Your pet's behavior may change dramatically after a disaster, becoming aggressive or defensive. Be aware of their well being and protect them from hazards to ensure the safety of other people and animals.

- Watch your animals closely and keep them under your direct control as fences and gates may have been damaged.
- Pets may become disoriented, particularly if the disaster has affected scent markers that normally allow them to find their home.
- Be aware of hazards at nose and paw or hoof level, particularly debris, spilled chemicals, fertilizers and other substances that might not seem to be dangerous to humans.
- Consult your veterinarian if any behavior problems persist.

# IDENTIFICATION

**Having identification on your animals, including rabies and license tags, if applicable, may help reunite you with your animal(s) in the event you are separated.**

Identification should provide your name, home address, phone number(s), and the phone number of someone out-of-state with whom you will be in contact during or soon after the disaster/evacuation.

If possible, include your veterinarian's name, location, and phone number. Examples of some forms of identification are listed below.

## SMALL ANIMAL



- collar tag (a piece of tape applied to the back of the collar tag can provide evacuation site information – use waterproof ink)
- microchip
- tattoo
- temporary neckband
- waterproof pouch attached to collar with identification information inside
- many reptiles may be marked with a permanent felt-tipped marker
- clear identification on cage/housing for confined animals

---

NAME

---

HOME ADDRESS

---

PHONE NUMBER(S)

# TRANSPORTATION

To decrease the risk of disease transmission, keep animals from different households separated as much as possible and use the best possible hygiene.

## SMALL ANIMAL



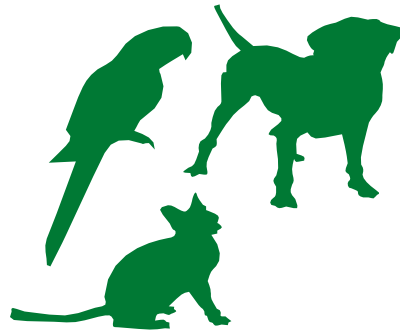
- Leash, collar, and/or harness for each pet.
- For each pet: a collapsible cage or airline approved carrier with proper bedding. This can be used for transportation and housing purposes. Owning enough carriers to accommodate your pets facilitates a speedy evacuation and may mean the difference between the life or death of your pets.
- Familiarize your animals with evacuation procedures and cages/carriers. Take the cage/carrier out several times a year and put toys, blankets and treats inside. By doing this, you hope to reinforce positive feelings associated with the animal carrier.
- Cat carriers should be large enough to hold a small litter pan and two small dishes and still allow your cat enough room to lie down comfortably or stand to use the litter pan.
- Dog kennels or collapsible cages should be large enough to hold two no-spill bowls and still allow your dog enough room to stand and turn around.
- For added assurance, clearly label each carrier with your identification and contact information.
- Locate and PREARRANGE an evacuation site for your family and animals that is outside your immediate area. Ideally, this will be a friend/relative or a pet-friendly hotel willing to let your family and animals stay in the event
- of a disaster. Other possible animal housing options include veterinary hospitals, boarding kennels, and animal shelters.

# SMALL ANIMAL EVACUATION KIT

The following lists will help you prepare an evacuation kit for your animal(s) in the event of a disaster. Assemble the kit in easy-to-carry, waterproof containers. Store it in an easily accessible location away from areas with temperature extremes.

Become familiar with the items in your kit and how they are used before you need to use them.

## SMALL ANIMAL

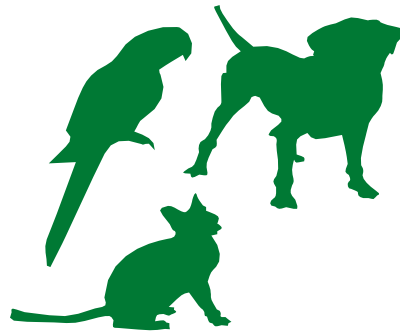


- ✓ 2-week supply of food (dry & canned)
- ✓ 2-week supply of water in plastic gallon jugs with secure lids
- ✓ Batteries (flashlight, radio)
- ✓ Cage/carrier (one for each animal, labeled with your contact information)
- ✓ Can opener (manual)
- ✓ Cat/wildlife gloves
- ✓ Copies of veterinary records and proof of ownership
- ✓ Emergency contact list
- ✓ Familiar items to make pets feel comfortable (favorite toys, treats, blankets)
- ✓ First aid kit (see next page)
- ✓ Flashlight
- ✓ Instructions
- ✓ Diet: record the diet for each individual animal, including what not to feed in case of allergies.
- ✓ Medications: list each animal separately, and for each medication include the drug name, dose and frequency. Provide veterinary and pharmacy contact information for refills.
- ✓ Leash and collar or harness (for each animal)
- ✓ Litter, litter pan, litter scoop
- ✓ Maps of local area and alternate evacuation routes in addition to GPS (in case of road closures)
- ✓ Muzzles (dog or cat)
- ✓ Newspaper (bedding, litter)
- ✓ No-spill food and water dishes
- ✓ Paper towels
- ✓ Radio (solar and battery operated)
- ✓ Spoon (for canned food)
- ✓ Stakes and tie-outs
- ✓ Trash bags

## SMALL ANIMAL FIRST AID KIT

Consult your veterinarian when developing a first aid kit. The items below serve only as examples of what may be included in a small animal first aid kit.

### SMALL ANIMAL



- ✓ Activated charcoal (liquid)
- ✓ Anti-diarrheal liquid or tablets
- ✓ Antibiotic ointment (for wounds)
- ✓ Antibiotic eye ointment
- ✓ Bandage scissors
- ✓ Bandage tape
- ✓ Betadine® (povidone-iodine) or Nolvasan® (chlorhexidine), scrub and solution
- ✓ Cotton bandage rolls
- ✓ Cotton-tipped swabs
- ✓ Elastic bandage rolls
- ✓ Eye rinse (sterile)
- ✓ Flea and tick prevention and treatment
- ✓ Gauze pads and rolls
- ✓ Ice cream sticks (which may be used as splints)
- ✓ Isopropyl alcohol/alcohol prep pads
- ✓ Latex gloves or non- allergenic gloves
- ✓ Liquid dish detergent (mild wound and body cleanser)
- ✓ Measuring spoons
- ✓ Medications and preventatives (such as heartworm prevention), minimum 2-week supply, with clearly labeled instructions. Provide veterinary and pharmacy contact information for refills.
- ✓ Non-adherent bandage pads
- ✓ Saline solution (for rinsing wounds)
- ✓ Sterile lubricant (water based)
- ✓ Styptic powder (clotting agent)
- ✓ Syringe or eyedropper
- ✓ Thermometer (digital)
- ✓ Tourniquet
- ✓ Towel and washcloth
- ✓ Tweezers



# PART 2

## Livestock Disaster Preparedness

Using the American Veterinary Medical Association's (AVMA) procedures to **prepare now**, you can quickly and easily safeguard your livestock when disaster strikes.

### Prepare – Get a Livestock Evacuation Kit

- Include feed, water, supplements, supplies (medications, rope/lariat, halters/leads, cleaning supplies, knives, etc.), and papers (veterinary records and proof of ownership).
- Review your kit regularly to ensure contents, especially feed and medicines, are fresh.

### Plan – What You Will Do in an Emergency

- Determine if you are able to evacuate (This should be based on the type of disaster and the safety and stability of the shelter).
- Determine where you will go if you have to leave (Identify friends or relatives who could house livestock during the disaster, including fairgrounds or other livestock evacuation locations).
- Determine how you will evacuate (Decide how livestock will be transported/housed and prearrange an evacuation site). *In case you are not home:*
- Designate a neighbor to tend to your livestock (This person should be familiar with your livestock, know your evacuation procedures, know where your evacuation kit is kept, and have your emergency contact information).
- Make sure livestock has some form of identification (microchip, ear/leg tag, leg band, tattoo etc.).

## **Stay Informed—Know About Types of Emergencies**

- It's always a good idea to find out what types of emergencies could happen where you live and whether you need to make any specific preparations because of them. (A good basic emergency plan is to keep your livestock with you; what's best for you is typically what's best for your livestock.)
- Plan to stay if it's safe to do so, or leave if ordered to evacuate.)

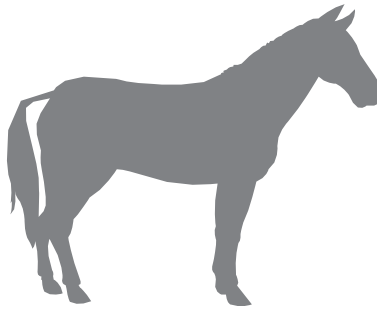
# IDENTIFICATION

**Having identification on your animals, including rabies and license tags, if applicable, may help reunite you with your animal(s) in the event you are separated.**

Identification should provide your name, home address, phone number(s), and the phone number of someone out-of-state with whom you will be in contact during or soon after the disaster/evacuation.

If possible, include your veterinarian's name, location, and phone number. Examples of some forms of identification are listed below.

## Equine



- microchip
- tattoo
- halter tag
- neck collars
- leg band
- brand
- mane clip
- luggage tag braided into tail or mane
- clipper-shaved information in the animal's hair
- livestock marking crayon, non-toxic, non-water-soluble spray paint, or non-water-soluble markers to write on the animal's side
- permanent marker to mark hooves

---

NAME

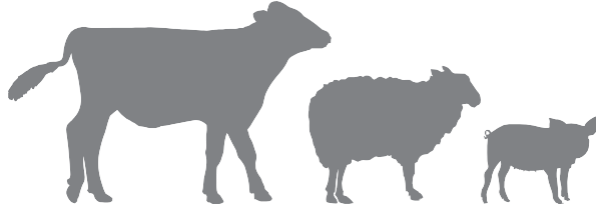
---

HOME ADDRESS

---

PHONE NUMBER(S)

# IDENTIFICATION



## Livestock

- neck chain
- ear notches
- leg band
- ear tag
- brand
- livestock marking crayon, non-toxic, non-water- soluble spray paint, or markers to write on the animal's side
- wattle notching
- ear tattoo
- back or tail tag

---

NAME

---

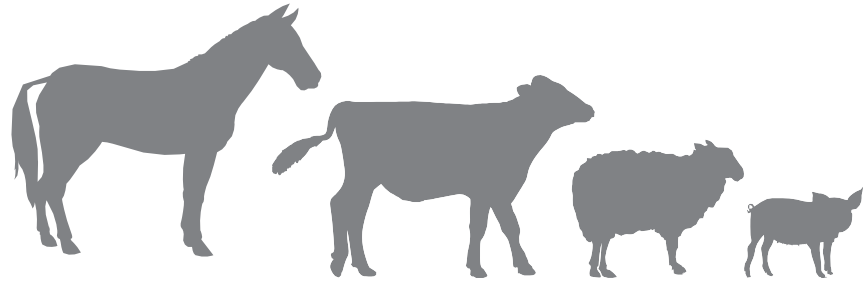
HOME ADDRESS

---

PHONE NUMBER(S)

# TRANSPORTATION

## Equine/Livestock



Equine/livestock evacuation can be challenging:

- Develop an evacuation plan and make sure animals are familiar with being loaded onto a trailer.
- Premises with facilities specifically designed to load and handle livestock will be much more successful in evacuating and relocating livestock.
- Locate and prearrange an evacuation site for your animals outside your immediate area.

Possible sites include:

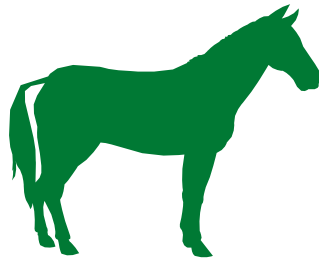
- veterinary or land grant colleges
- racetracks
- show grounds
- pastures
- stables
- fairgrounds
- equestrian centers
- livestock corrals
- stockyards or auction facilities
- other boarding facilities

If you do not have enough trailers to quickly transport all of your animals to an evacuation site, contact neighbors, local haulers, farmers, producers, or other transportation providers to establish a network of available and reliable resources that can provide transportation in the event of a disaster.

# EQUINE EVACUATION KIT

The following lists will help you prepare an evacuation kit for your animal(s) in the event of a disaster. Assemble the kit in easy-to-carry, waterproof containers.

Become familiar with the items in your kit and how they are used before you need to use them.



- ✓ 7-10 day supply of feed, supplements, and water
- ✓ Bandannas (to use as blindfolds)
- ✓ Batteries (flashlight, radio)
- ✓ Blankets
- ✓ Copies of veterinary records and proof of ownership
- ✓ Duct tape
- ✓ Emergency contact list
- ✓ First aid kit
- ✓ Flashlight
- ✓ Fly spray
- ✓ Grooming brushes
- ✓ Heavy gloves (leather)
- ✓ Hoof knife
- ✓ Hoof nippers
- ✓ Hoof pick
- ✓ Hoof rasp
- ✓ Diet: record the diet for your animals.
- ✓ Medications: list each animal separately, and for each medication include the drug name, dose and frequency. Provide veterinary and pharmacy contact information for refills.
- ✓ Knife (sharp, all-purpose)
- ✓ Leg wraps and leg quilts
- ✓ Maps of local area and alternate evacuation routes in addition to GPS (in case of road closures)
- ✓ Non-nylon halters and leads (leather/cotton)
- ✓ Paper towels
- ✓ Plastic trash cans with lids (can be used to store water)
- ✓ Radio (solar, hand cranked and/or battery operated)
- ✓ Rope or lariat
- ✓ Shovel
- ✓ Tarpaulins
- ✓ Trash bags
- ✓ Twitch
- ✓ Water buckets
- ✓ Wire cutters

# LIVESTOCK EVACUATION KIT

The following lists will help you prepare an evacuation kit for your animal(s) in the event of a disaster. Assemble the kit in easy-to-carry, waterproof containers.

Become familiar with the items in your kit and how they are used before you need to use them.

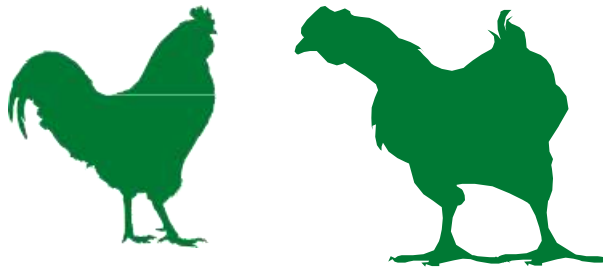


- ✓ 7-10 day supply of feed and water
- ✓ Batteries (flashlight, radio)
- ✓ Copies of veterinary records and proof of ownership
- ✓ Cotton halter
- ✓ Duct tape
- ✓ Emergency contact list
- ✓ Flashlight
- ✓ Heavy gloves (leather)
- ✓ Instructions
- ✓ Diet: record the diet for your animals.
- ✓ Medications: list each animal separately, and for each medication include
  - ✓ the drug name, dose and frequency.
  - ✓ Provide veterinary and pharmacy contact information for refills.
- ✓ Knife (sharp, all-purpose)
- ✓ Maps of local area and alternate evacuation routes in addition to GPS (in case of road closures)
- ✓ Nose leads
- ✓ Plastic trash cans with lids (can be used to store water)
- ✓ Portable livestock panels
- ✓ Radio (solar, hand-cranked and/or battery operated)
- ✓ Rope or lariat
- ✓ Shovel
- ✓ Water buckets
- ✓ Whip, prods
- ✓ Wire cutters

## BACKYARD POULTRY / BIRDS EVACUATION KIT

**Be sure to include backyard poultry in your plan.**

- Leg bands with an emergency telephone number and photos of birds can help you identify them if they escape or get lost.
- Plastic poultry transport crates/coops work well for transporting chickens. Transfer birds to more suitable housing as soon as possible to facilitate feeding and watering.
- At the evacuation site, house birds away from noisy areas and other flocks and protect them from the weather and predators.
- Vehicle interiors should be warmed in winter or cooled in summer before transporting birds.
- Line crates or cages with shavings or other absorbent material for ease of cleaning.



- ✓ Feed and water for 7 -10 days.
- ✓ Vitamin and electrolyte packs (Stress packs) may help ease the stress.
- ✓ Sufficient feeders and waterers for the number of birds.
- ✓ Detergent
- ✓ Disinfectant, gloves and other cleaning supplies for cleaning cages, feeders and drinkers.
- ✓ Extra absorbent bedding material (newspapers can work temporarily) to line cages or temporary coops.
- ✓ If evacuating chicks, consider their special needs (heat, food, equipment).



## References

- American Red Cross, Pet Disaster preparedness Guidelines.  
<https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/pet-disaster-preparedness.html>.
- American Veterinary Medical Association, Pets and Disasters.  
<https://www.avma.org/resources/pet-owners/emergencycare/pets-and-disasters>.
- AVMA. Saving The Whole Family, Disaster Preparedness.  
[https://ebusiness.avma.org/files/productdownloads/STWF\\_English.pdf](https://ebusiness.avma.org/files/productdownloads/STWF_English.pdf).
- Disaster Preparedness Guidelines for Livestock Owners. Indiana State Public Board of Animal Health.
- Disaster Preparedness Guidelines for Horse Owners. Indiana State Board of Animal Health.
- Guidelines for the Development of a Local Animal Care Plan in Emergencies, Disasters, and Evacuations. Heath, Sebastian E. Ph.D. D.V.M. Purdue University, School of Veterinary Medicine.
- Livestock Handling and Transport. Grandin, Temple. Ph.D., Colorado State University, 1993.
- Behavioral Principles of Livestock Handling. Grandin, Temple. Ph.D., Colorado State University, 1989.
- Cattle Handling Safety in Working Facilities. Hubert, D.J. et.al. Bulletin F-1738 Oklahoma State University Extension fact sheet.
- S. Cotton, Colorado State University Extension Pueblo County range management agent and Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) coordinator; T. McBride, Colorado State University Adams County Extension director (emeritus), Extension livestock agent, EDEN. 1/04. Reviewed 12/2010.