



Disaster Information for Owners of Birds and Reptiles



Before Disaster Strikes

Plan Ahead

- Remember, shelters do not welcome pets, make disaster plans for temporary placement of your pets.

Photo and ID

- Keep a current photo of each pet, making sure the photo shows any distinguishing marks. You might consider the implantation of a microchip for identification. Birds should be leg banded.

Medical and Vaccination Records

- Keep your animals vaccination current. Store vaccination and medical records along with your important papers, in a waterproof bag.

Transportation

- Each animal should have it's own pet carrier. Make sure your pet carrier is strong enough to hold your animal in a disaster; you might consider an airline-approved carrier. Familiarize your pet with the container.

Buddy System

- In the event you are not at home when disaster strikes, have a trusted neighbor alerted to check on your pet. Make sure your animals "buddy" has access to medical records containing the name and phone number of your veterinarian. It is also advisable to have a waiver on file with your veterinarian that will allow your animal's "buddy" to authorize treatment in your absence.

During the Disaster

- Evacuate your animal as early as possible, to ensure safety and ease your and their stress.
- Listen to the Emergency Broadcast System for information and directions from authorities.

- When evacuating with your pet take all vaccination and medical records. Also, make sure you have supplies (food and water) for your pet in your disaster supply kit.
- If possible, call ahead to your destination and make sure space is available.
- In cold weather, wrap a blanket around the carrier/cage and warm up the car.
- Snakes can be transported in a pillowcase, but removed upon relocation.
- Keep your birds caged. If they get out they may sense danger and be difficult to capture.
- Do not rely on electric filters, feeding systems or other electric equipment during a disaster. The power may go out and your pet will be stranded.

After the Disaster

- Check your animals for injury and exposure to chemicals. Contact your veterinarian if you have any concerns.
- Monitor birds for several days following a disaster. Birds commonly show signs of disease several days following a stressful period. Consult your veterinarian if any of the following symptoms appear: lethargy, loss of appetite, loose stools, depression, injury, or sitting on the bottom of the cage.
- If you move to new surroundings, do not remove your bird from the cage for several days or until it is calm. A frightened bird might fly away.
- If your bird has been without food and water for several days, introduce food and water slowly and work back up to normal volume.

Disaster Kit for Your Animal

- Carrier or Cage/cover/blanket
- Food and water with bowls/dispensers
- Newspaper
- First Aid Items
- Paper towel and plastic bags for clean up
- Disinfectants
- Toys and treats
- Water bowl for soaking and heating pad for snakes
- Battery powered heat lamp
- Veterinarians information and current photo of your pet