



Sheltering Animals

Print. Read. Put with disaster documents.

Your animals are going to be happiest if they can remain with you while you are evacuated. This may not be possible though, so what other options do you have.

Friends or Family

If your animals can stay with people they know at a location where they have been before, that would be the preferred choice. When they are there, be sure to make time to visit them. It will be comforting for them and for you.

Hotels/Motels

Hotels or motels that normally allow pets are an option if you will be staying there. They usually have a size and number restriction though. Hotels that don't normally allow pets will sometime waive this policy during a disaster. You will have to do some research on-line if this is your preferred place to stay while evacuated.

Air BnB's

A lot of Air BnB's allow pets. There may be size and number restrictions though. You will have to do some research on-line to see if you can find a location outside of the evacuation area.

Camp Grounds or RV Parks

If you are going to be staying in an RV finding a place that will allow animals should not be too difficult. There could be a number and size restriction though.

Evacuation Shelter for People

More of the evacuation shelter that are set up for people now allow people to bring their pets. This does not usually include large animals. There is usually a separate area designated for people to stay with their animals. Once shelters start opening, which could take several

days, they will usually announce if they allow pets. If you are staying at the shelter with your animals you will be expected to provide all the care.

Boarding Kennel

This may not be your preferred place to take your animals because they will more than likely be in a cage or run. The positive side is that you will know they are safe, cannot escape and are being well cared for.

Veterinary Facilities

The space in veterinary facilities is usually limited, so they try and take only animals with on-going medical needs or ones that have been injured during the disaster.

Animal Shelter

A lot of animal shelters will move animals they were housing before the disaster to other shelters out of the area to make room for evacuated animals. Like a boarding kennel, it may not be the ideal option, but you won't have to worry about them.

Fair Grounds, Rodeo Grounds or Horse Tracks

These locations often open their facility to house larger animals that have been evacuated. They may not have enough people to care for all the animals though, so you may be expected to be there throughout the day to feed, muck and exercise your animals.

Temporary Animal Evacuation Shelter

During larger disasters temporary animal evacuation shelters will usually be opened. It can take several days though to get them up and running. The shelters could be in a variety of different kinds of locations and facilities. The local animal control agency is usually in charge of running the temporary shelter, or they may have other animal welfare organizations assist them. Local news will provide information on shelter options for animals as soon as they get the information.

These shelters are also a good place to go to get animal supplies you need. You don't have to be housing your animals there to get the supplies. All the items are being donated by businesses and the public.

These facilities usually rely on volunteers to care for the animals. If you want to care for your own animals or help with other animals at the shelter, you would more than likely be welcome to do so.