

Fact Sheet



Preparedness Tips for Individuals with Pets or Livestock

When preparing for a potential emergency, don't forget to include pets and livestock. Here are some ideas for preparing to protect your animals during an emergency situation:

- ✓ Talk to your veterinarian about evacuation options and emergency care for your animals.
- ✓ Identify a nearby emergency animal shelter location including kennels, adjoining farms, state and local fairgrounds and the County Animal Response Team (CART). Research which hotels will accept pets. Get to know the policies and staff of your local animal control authority, as well as the local animal non-profit rescue and care groups including the Pennsylvania State Animal Response Team (PASART) and your local CART.
- ✓ Have a portable crate available for cats or small dogs and a leash available for larger dogs. For livestock, have halters and lead straps available.
- ✓ Ask neighbors and friends to evacuate your animals if a disaster strikes when you are away. Make sure that your animals trust this person before an emergency and that this person knows where to find the crates and leashes, etc. Agree on a post-emergency meeting place before the emergency happens.
- ✓ License your companion animals; make sure your animals can be easily identified so they can be reunited with you after the disaster; and keep all vaccinations current.
- ✓ Consider microchips and/or tattoos as permanent identification. Take pictures of you with your animal(s) to show proof of ownership and to help identify them if you are separated during a disaster.
- ✓ Have a record of the number of the rabies tag, license, microchip, or tattoo with you for proof of ownership. Have a copy of your pets' and livestock's medical records and list of necessary medications on hand.
- ✓ Have a "to go" kit for your pets in your car in case you and your pets must be evacuated. The bag should include, at minimum, three days worth of food and water, dishes/bowls, bedding, toys, treats, an extra leash and collar, a litter pan for cats, a pet First-Aid kit, identification information, paper towels, clean-up bags and any medications your pets need.

- ✓ Prepare an evacuation plan for livestock. Your emergency plan should include a list of resources such as trucks, trailers, pasture and/or feed which might be needed in an evacuation, as well as a designated person who will unlock gates and doors and make your facility easily accessible to emergency personnel. Make sure that everyone who lives, works or boards at your barn is familiar with the plan.
- ✓ If you must leave animals behind, post a highly visible sign (either on a window or a door) letting rescue workers know the breed and number of animals which remain. Leave plenty of food and water with care instructions. If your animal becomes lost, immediately call or visit the nearest animal shelter or emergency command post. If you find a lost animal, notify the local animal shelter as soon as possible and be prepared to give a full description of the animal (i.e., color, breed, sex) and its location.
- ✓ For more pet or livestock preparedness information, please contact your county Cooperative Extension and Outreach office or visit their web site at www.extension.psu.edu.

For more information, visit: www.readypa.org

Additional resources: www.pasart.org, www.pema.state.pa.us, www.homelandsecurity.state.pa.us,

www.ready.gov or www.health.state.pa.us