



SOMEBODY HERE NEEDS YOU.

## **Disaster Planning Checklist for Animal Guardians**

### **Create a Written Personal Disaster Plan:**

Schedule a household meeting to discuss escape routes, location of evacuation supplies, and who will be in charge of each animal in an evacuation situation. Fill out the **Personal Disaster Plan** on back. Determine which rooms in your home offer safe havens. They should be away from windows, be easy to clean, and have access to fresh water. In flooding emergencies, go to the highest location in your house. Arrange with a trusted neighbor to temporarily care for or evacuate your animals in your absence. Provide them with a house key, instructions, and emergency contact numbers to reach you. Since disaster shelters generally don't admit animals, prearrange evacuation destinations for you and your animals outside your immediate area; consider family and friends or animal-friendly hotels.

### **Ready Animals and Evacuation Supplies:**

Have a carrier for each animal; label them in advance with your name, address and emergency contact numbers. Carriers should be large enough for animals to stand up, lie down, and turn around comfortably. Gather animal evacuation supplies. Store the supplies in or near the carrier. Apply MHS pet rescue stickers on each entry to your home identifying your animals and where they can be found in case you are not home at the time of crisis. Apply them to barn doors for horses. Make sure that animals wear current visible identification (collar and identification tag) at all times. Familiarize animals with going in and out of carriers.

### **When Disaster Threatens:**

Put your plan into action. Fill vehicle(s) with gas. Pack an atlas/road map. Get cash from the bank. Bring companion animals indoors at the first sign of possible danger. Turn haltered horses into securely fenced pastures. Make sure all animals are wearing visible identification with out-of-area contact info. Place animals in individual carriers and ready evacuation supplies. Listen to local weather and/or news updates for instructions as to whether to shelter in place or evacuate.

### **Sheltering in place:**

Close and lock doors and windows. Seal gaps under doorways and windows with wet towels and duct tape if told to do so. Turn off ventilation systems, water and gas. Remain calm. Stay with your animals to provide comfort and reassurance.

### **Evacuating:**

If you evacuate, take your animals with you! Leave early, especially when evacuating horses. Load animal carriers into your vehicle; take along your evacuation kit. Lock your home. Post a note telling others when you left and where you are going. Travel on routes specified by local authorities. Keep dogs securely leashed when out of carriers. Use a harness and leash for cats.

### **After the Disaster:**

Inspect your home and yard for dangers before allowing your family or animals in. Walk dogs on a leash and let cats become re-oriented room by room in your home. Animal behavior may change – confusion and abnormal behavior are common. Review, practice, and update your plan regularly with your family.

# Personal Disaster Plan

## Family Emergency Contact Information:

POLICE DIAL 911 or \_\_\_\_\_  
FIRE DIAL 911 or \_\_\_\_\_  
AMBULANCE 911 or \_\_\_\_\_

## Nearby Alternative Animal Care Provider:

Name/address/phone \_\_\_\_\_

## Family Work Numbers:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_

# Disaster Supplies Checklist

## All Companion Animals:

- Carrier or crate (one per animal), labeled with animal's name and your contact information
- 1-2 week supply of food in waterproof container, labeled with feeding instructions and expiration date
- 1-2 week supply of bottled water, labeled with expiration date
- Food and water bowls (lightweight, non-tippable)
- Sanitation supplies (spray cleaner, paper towels, plastic bags, hand wipes)
- 1-2 week supply of medications in original container, labeled with instructions and dosages
- Copy of veterinary records, license, rabies certificate, etc., in zip-top bag
- Current photograph of animal with guardian
- Animal description information including microchip #
- Optional: animal first aid kit, towel or blanket, toys, grooming items, manual can opener

## Additional Items

### **Dogs:**

Collar or harness with identification tag attached (have out-of-area contact information on the tag); Extra leash or lead; Optional: muzzle, stake and tie-out

## Out of Area Contact:

Name/address/phone \_\_\_\_\_

## Family Meeting Places:

Right outside your home: \_\_\_\_\_

Away from neighborhood: \_\_\_\_\_

## Other Information:

Location of evacuation supplies: \_\_\_\_\_

Person in charge of animal evacuation: \_\_\_\_\_

Safe rooms for sheltering at home: \_\_\_\_\_

Veterinarian name, #: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency vet name, #: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Cats:**

Litter pan to fit in carrier, cat litter and litter scoop; Harness with identification tag attached (have out-of-area contact information on the tag) and lead

### **Rabbits/Small Mammals:**

Water bottle; Bedding material; Optional: litter pan to fit in carrier, litter, litter scoop, cage accessories, exercise equipment, nail clippers, chew sticks

### **Birds:**

Newspaper; Cage perch; Optional: blanket to drape cage, plant mister, slices of fresh fruit or vegetables with high water content (for access to water during transport), timed feeder, hot water bottle, leg band (for identification)

### **Reptiles/Amphibians:**

Water bowl (large enough for soaking); Frozen fruits or vegetables, ice chest for storage, or no-salt-added canned fruits or vegetables; Cage accessories including hiding place; Suitable substrate for species (shredded newspaper, topsoil, moss, sand, paper towels, pine chips, etc.); Hay (for insulation); Optional: pillowcase (for snake transport), blanket to drape cage, heating pad or heating element appropriate to species, UVB lamp and light, plant mister, vitamins, live food, air pump or bubbler, heavy-duty extension cord, generator

### **Horses:**

Horse blanket or sheet; Tarps; Hoof knife, nippers, and rasp; Horse trailer (or access to one); Halter (non-nylon – marked with horse name and guardian contact information), cotton lead and shank; Optional: bandanas (blindfolds), leg wraps, rope or lariat, twitch or nose lead, duct tape, heavy gloves, fly spray, Coggins test results, plastic trash barrel with lid (water storage), feed and water buckets, shavings or straw for bedding, clean-up items (pitchfork, shovel, wheelbarrow or muck bucket), bleach, wire cutters, hoof pick, knife (sharp, all-purpose)