

# Prepare Your Service Animals and Pets



Flood



Fire



Lightning



Terrorism



Heatwave



Snowstorm



Hurricane



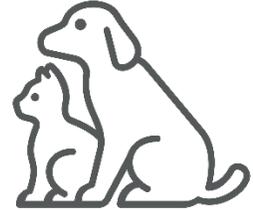
Bombing

Tab 9

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## Prepare Your Service Animals and Pets

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines a service animal as a **dog [and in some cases, a miniature horse]. Every service animal is trained to do work or perform tasks for a person with a disability.**



Service animals are different from pets. They can go into public places where pets are usually not allowed.

In an emergency, a service animal must be allowed inside a shelter, clinic or any other facility with their owner. A service animal can be made to leave only if it threatens the health or safety of other people, or bothers people with bad behavior, like barking or peeing.

If you have pets, your state website is a good place to find out if there are other ways to protect your pet in a disaster. Some states have pet-friendly emergency shelters during certain disasters.

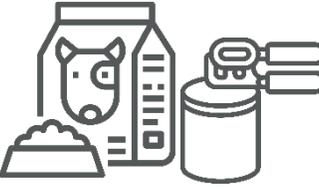
## Things to Consider

- Buy stickers or make a sign to put on your doors and windows to show the types of animals you have and where they may be in your house.
- Make sure your service animals and pets have current licenses and ID tags.
- Put your number and your emergency contact person's phone number on the tags.
- Make friends with other animal owners in your neighborhood so someone can help your animals if you are not home.
- Plan who will care for your pet if you have to leave your home in an emergency and can't bring it with you. Call your local Office of Emergency Management for information, and/or check with your veterinarian.
- If you have a pet in a carrier, there is a greater chance that emergency shelter personnel will allow the pet into the shelter. Make sure to include your pet's emergency supply kit (next page). Shelters may not have the supplies needed to care for your pet.
- If you use a service animal, know that he or she may be affected by the disaster, too. They may not be able to work as well. Practice your emergency plans using other assistance and/or cues.

## An Emergency Supply Kit for your Service Animal or Pet

In an emergency, your service animal or pet will need supplies too! Here are some supplies to think about:

- A bowl for water 

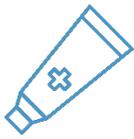
- A 7-day supply of food and can opener 

-  2-week supply of water in plastic gallon jugs

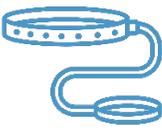
- A blanket or newspaper to sleep on 

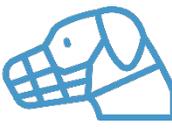
-  Plastic bags and paper towels for disposing of waste

- Rubber gloves for you to use when disposing of waste 

-  Pet first aid supplies for minor injuries, and other first aid supplies your veterinarian may recommend to keep your animal healthy.

- A favorite toy 

-  An extra collar and leash

- A muzzle (in case of injury or unusual behavior) 

- Medicine(s) your animal needs

- Pet/animal shampoo and brush

-  A carrier that has your contact information on it. Make sure you have one for each animal.

- Boots and perhaps coat in case the animal needs to walk and there is a lot of dangerous debris on the ground.

Source: The American National Red Cross. Prepare.org. 2006

Source: National Organization on Disability. *Disaster Readiness Tips for Owners of Pets and Service Animals*. 2007

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## Service Animals and Pet Identification

Take a photo of your service animal or pet beside an object that will show its size (like a dining room chair or a kitchen stove). Take a picture of the face and then a picture showing the animal from the side. On the back of the picture, write:

1. The animal's name and owner contact information
2. The current date
3. If the animal has an identification chip implanted, write that info down.
4. The animal's birth year and current weight.
5. Your vet's name, their address and contact info.
6. What shots your animal has had and the dates.
7. What medications the animal takes, if any, and the dosages, how often.
8. What food the animal normally eats.
9. Any allergies the animal might have (food and medicine).
10. What you DON'T let your animal have in the way of food/toys/treats.
11. Any quirks your animal has that first responders need to know about (for example, is afraid of thunder and might try to run away; is frightened by big dogs and may get aggressive).
12. What kinds of things calm the animal (classical music playing on a battery powered radio? a blanket?).

Use laminating paper or clear contact paper to laminate the picture(s). Put the picture **INSIDE** the carrier. Make a reminder on your calendar to update the picture as the animal's looks change over time.

Source: The American National Red Cross. Prepare.org. 2006

Source: National Organization on Disability. *Disaster Readiness Tips for Owners of Pets and Service Animals* 2007.

## **Common Questions about Service Animals**

It's important to consider your rights to have service animals with you during an emergency. Please visit this website for more details:

[www.droregon.org/service-animals](http://www.droregon.org/service-animals)