

CARING FOR YOUR PETS DURING AN EMERGENCY

When an emergency evacuation occurs, pets may not be allowed in all emergency shelters for public health and safety reasons. Planning ahead can save your pet's life and make yours easier, according to the Harford County Department of Emergency Services.

Before disaster strikes

- Find a safe place for your pets to stay. Emergency pet shelters, animal control shelters, veterinary clinics and friends homes outside of risk area. Some hotels and motels may allow you to bring pets; others may suspend their "no pet" rules during an emergency. Check ahead to make sure you can bring your pet.
- Make sure your pets wear current ID tags all the time and that carriers for each pet are labeled with contact information.
- Be sure your pets vaccinations are current. Pet shelters may require proof of vaccines.



During a disaster

- Keep pets in the house as emergency situations develop so you can locate them.
- Don't wait until the last minute to get ready. Warnings may be issued hours or days in advance.
- Follow emergency instructions issued by emergency management or other local officials.
- Harford County will provide sheltering at certain locations to domesticated animals during or after a disaster. Residents should bring their pets to the Harford County Reception Center when requested to do so.
- Take your pet's immunizations and health records with you to prevent them from being damaged.
- If you must leave your pet behind, follow these tips:
 - 1) Bring the pet indoors.
 - 2) Leave plenty of food and water in a non-spill bowl.
 - 3) Put large or dangerous animals in carriers to reduce the possibility of them getting loose.

For more information, contact the Harford County Department of Emergency Services (410-638-4900).

