



The Disaster Animal Response Team of Nova Scotia would like to provide you with the following information on how to be prepared for your pets during an emergency.

Plan for your Pets

Just as important as planning for your family, you should have a plan in place for your pets during an emergency. Animals can't be left behind in the event of an evacuation and many temporary emergency shelters will not accept them.

Preparing Pets for an Emergency:

- Make sure your pet's vaccinations are up-to-date. Pet shelters may require proof of vaccines.
- Keep a collar with license and identification on your pet.
- Have a special kit prepared including a leash, muzzle (if necessary), carrying case, food, water and food bowls, any necessary medications and specific care instructions for your pets. Even if you are not forced to evacuate your pet will have adequate food and supplies on hand.
- Contact your veterinarian or local humane society to find out potential shelters ahead of time.

Taking Care of Pets during an Emergency:

- Bring pets inside well in advance of a storm. Many animals are uneasy during storms – try to keep them calm and reassured. Make sure to take them for a walk before the storm starts.
- Pet shelters will fill fast. Call first to determine availability.

Taking Care of Pets after an Emergency:

- Walk your pet on a leash until they are comfortable and re-oriented. Often, in the aftermath of a storm, familiar landmarks and scents have disappeared and pets could become confused.
- Watch for downed power lines and debris, broken fences or open gates
- Watch your pet's behavior – they may become defensive or aggressive after a traumatic event.
- If sidewalks are blocked, use caution when walking your pet. Make sure you are both wearing reflective clothing so oncoming traffic can see you. Always make sure to have your dog on a leash in bad weather,

For more information on The Disaster Animal Response Team of Nova Scotia or to make a donation, please visit our website at www.dartns.org