

WHAT ABOUT PETS?

The Peterborough Humane Society offers a wide range of services to the community from reuniting families with their lost pets, to investigating animal cruelty, adopting animals into loving responsible homes and providing food, care, shelter and comfort to injured, lost and abandoned animals.

In the event of a crisis / emergency, the Animal Protection Services may be called upon to provide professional assistance for the following emergency situations involving animals:

- Highway Traffic matters involving livestock carriers
- Emergency fire / police requests for assistance
- Natural disaster preparedness and response with respect to care or evacuation of animals

Family violence assistance program, responding to and transporting animals in need of shelter where a family member has fled a violent situation.

To obtain further information, contact the Peterborough Humane Society Shelter at (705) 745-4722 or the administrative Office at (705) 745-8585.

Have A Disaster Plan For Your Pets

The best way to protect your family from the effects of a disaster is to have a disaster plan. If you are a pet owner, the plan must include your pets. Being prepared can save their lives.

Different disasters require different responses. But whether the disaster is a hurricane or a hazardous spill, you may have to evacuate your home.

In the event of a disaster, if you must evacuate, the most important thing you can do to protect your pets is to evacuate them, too. Leaving pets behind, even if you try to create a safe place for them is likely to result in their being injured, lost, or worse? So prepare now for the day when you and your pets may have to leave your home.

Have a Safe Place to Take Your Pets

It may be difficult, if not impossible, to find shelter for your animals in the midst of a disaster, so plan ahead. Do not wait until disaster strikes to do your research.

Contact hotels and motels outside your immediate area to check policies on accepting pets and restrictions on number, size and species. Ask if “no pet” policies could be waived in an emergency. Keep a list of “pet friendly” places, including phone numbers, with other disaster information and supplies. If you have notice of an impending disaster, call ahead for reservation.

Ask friends, relatives, or others outside the affected area whether they could shelter your animals. If you have more than one pet, they may be more comfortable if kept together, but be prepared to house them separately.

Prepare a list of boarding facilities and veterinarians who could shelter animals in an emergency; include 24-hour telephone numbers.

Ask local animal shelters if they provide emergency shelter or foster care for pets in a disaster. Animal shelters may be overburdened caring for the animals they already have as well as those displaced by a disaster, so this should be your last resort.

Assemble a Portable Pet Disaster Supplies Kit

Whether you are away from home for a day or a week, you'll need essential supplies. Keep items in an accessible place and store them in sturdy containers that can be carried easily. Your pet disaster supplies kit should include:

- Medication and medical records (stored in a waterproof container) and a first aid kit
- Sturdy leashes, harnesses, and/or carriers to transport pet safely and ensure that your animals cannot escape
- Current photographs of your pets in case they get lost
- Food, portable water, bowls, cat litter/pan, and can opener
- Information on feeding schedules, medical conditions, behavior problems, and the name and telephone number of your veterinarian in case you have to foster or board your pets.

Know What to do as a Disaster Approaches

Often, warnings are issued hours, even days, in advance. At the first hint of disaster, act to protect your pet:

- Call ahead to confirm emergency shelter arrangements for your and your pets
- Check to be sure your pet disaster supplies are ready to take at a moment's notice
- Bring all pets into the house so that you won't have to search for them if you have to leave in a hurry
- Make sure all cats and dogs are wearing collars that are securely fastened with up-to-date identification.