



Tips to prepare for flooding events:

- Animals outside should be brought indoors unless evacuation is required.
- Identify actions you need to take in your organization's emergency plan. If a plan for your organization does not yet exist, follow the steps in the [Best Friends Emergency Preparedness Toolkit](#) to get started.
- Evacuate early if there is fear of flooding or flash flooding in your area. If you don't it may be too late. If that is not possible, do not keep animals enclosed in a kennel or crate, giving the opportunities to escape or get to higher ground within the facility.
- Understand your capacity with regard to vehicles, equipment, supplies, to move your animals. Identify and procure or partner with others who have additional supplies and vehicles to assist with the physical transport, if needed.
- It is important to establish where to evacuate the animals. Cultivate relationships with other shelters, rescues or ranchers outside the impacted area that might have the space and capacity to temporarily care for your animals.
- Contact your local emergency management agencies to identify where to bring animals to during an emergency like a local fairgrounds or stockyard.
- Put together an emergency supply kit of essential items for the animals, such as medications, non-perishable food, bowls, collars/leashes, muzzles, toys, blankets, kitty litter. Also, print out animal vaccination and medical records, including microchip numbers, and place inside a waterproof, sealed bag. Keep the supply kit somewhere where you can easily access it to assist with evacuations.
- Bring anything essential from the outside, indoors, if possible. Elevate any equipment or supplies that may be affected by flooding.
- Unplug all electrical items that could cause a spark or fire.
- Close all windows and doors.
- Be prepared for secondary concerns such as, power outages.

Important Reminders:

- Do not walk through floodwater.
- Do not drive through water or even over bridges that sit above fast-moving water as they can collapse at a moment's notice.
- Do not allow animals to drink any floodwater. There are a lot of chemicals, sewage and other harmful debris and foreign materials in floodwater.
- Do not assume animals can swim as animals can panic if put in a situation, they are too stressed to handle.
- If your animals get wet, dry them off as soon as possible as wetness can cause bacterial growth and inflammation on their skin.