



Scenario Six: Pet Preparedness

A key element to successfully responding to and recovering from a major disaster is the overall preparedness of individual citizens and their families. With that in mind, we invite you to participate in a series of ‘What would you do?’ scenarios with your loved ones to assess your level of preparedness. These tabletop activities are intended to be low-stress conversation starters to be discussed, as the name implies, around your dinner table. We do not want to know your results. Following the situation, we have included some discussion questions for the activity, as well as some helpful links to enhance your individual preparedness.

Scenario: A major hurricane is going to bring a lot of rain and flooding to your town. You and your family have been told you need to evacuate your home and stay in a safe shelter until the storm passes. You don’t want to stay in the house where it could be dangerous, but you don’t can’t leave your pet. What can you do?

Discussion Questions:

1. What would you do with your pet if you had to evacuate your house?
2. Close your eyes. Describe your pet or pets without looking at them.
3. Do you know if your town has pet-friendly shelters? Do know where you could find that information?
4. Do you know if your town has pet-friendly hotels, in case your family decided to stay in a hotel rather than a shelter?
5. What items should you put into your pet emergency kit?
6. Do you know the name of your pet’s veterinarian? Do you have his/her phone number? Do you have your pet’s veterinary records?
7. Does your pet have an updated tag on its collar? Do you have recent photos of your pet for identification? How would you locate your pet if you were separated?
8. Do you have livestock? How might you take care of them in an emergency?
9. What if you are unable to evacuate with your pet? What would you do?

Time to see how you did!

To learn more about this scenario and to check your plan, go to <https://community.fema.gov/take-action/hazards>. With your loved ones, discuss what steps you think that you should take to improve your safety in the event such a tragedy occurs.

Helpful Links

To learn more about pet preparedness, please visit <https://www.fema.gov/helping-pets> or check out a Pet Preparedness Manual at https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1390846777239-dc08e309debe561d866b05ac84daf1ee/pets_2014.pdf