



Disaster Preparedness for Small Animals

Contact Information

**In case of an emergency, always call 911*

- Tuolumne County Animal Control 209-694-2730
- Tuolumne County Sheriff's Department 209-533-5815

**For Medical Emergencies*

- Mono Way Veterinary Hospital 209-532-5507
- Mono Way Veterinary Hospital (Groveland Clinic) 209-962-7058
- Jamestown Veterinary Hospital 209-984-0232
- Sonora Veterinary Group 209-532-3994
- Twain Harte Veterinary Hospital 209-586-3232
- Live Oak Veterinary Hospital 209-432-9437
- Sierra Veterinary Care 209-532-7387
- Tuolumne Veterinary Hospital 209-532-0129
- Animal Medical Clinic 209-532-5529

**Keep in mind that most Veterinary Hospitals in Tuolumne County do not provide 24 hour emergency care. Generally, hospitals rotate an on-call doctor to handle emergency care. If you're unable to reach a local veterinarian, the closest 24 hour care veterinary hospitals are located in Modesto. Contact Information:*

- Veterinary Emergency Clinic
1800 Prescott Rd E, Modesto, CA 95350
209-527-8844

Your pet is an important member of your household. The likelihood that you and your animals will survive an emergency depends largely on emergency planning done today.

Emergencies come in many forms, and they may require anything from a brief absence from your home to permanent evacuation. Each type of disaster requires different measures to keep your pets safe, so the best thing you can do for yourself and your pets is to be prepared.

If you must evacuate, take your pets with you if possible. However, if you are going to a public shelter, it is important to understand that animals may not be allowed inside. **Plan in advance for shelter alternatives that will work for both you and your pets.** Make a back-up emergency plan in case you can't care for your animals yourself. Develop a buddy system with neighbors, friends and relatives to make sure that someone is available to care for or evacuate your pets if you are unable to do so.

There are simple steps you can follow now to make sure you're ready before the next disaster strikes:

Get a Rescue Alert Sticker

- Getting a sticker that you can place outside your door can alert emergency officials that there are animals inside your home. Make sure it is visible to rescue workers (we recommend placing it on or near your front door). The sticker should include the type and number of pets in your home as well as the name and number of your veterinarian. If you must evacuate with your pets, and if time allows, write "EVACUATED" across the stickers.

To get a free emergency pet alert sticker for your home, visit <https://www.aspca.org/pet-care/general-pet-care/disaster-preparedness>, and allow 6-8 weeks for delivery. Your local pet supply store may also sell similar stickers. Amazon.com also has many options to choose from.

Arrange a Safe Haven

Arrange a safe haven for your pets in the event of evacuation. **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PETS BEHIND.** Remember, if it isn't safe for you, it isn't safe for your pets. They may become trapped or escape and be exposed to numerous life-threatening hazards. Note that not all

shelters accept pets, so it is imperative that you have determined where you will bring your pets ahead of time:

- Contact your veterinarian for a list of preferred boarding kennels and facilities.
- Identify hotels or motels outside of your immediate area that accept pets.
- Ask friends and relatives outside your immediate area if they would be willing to take in your pet.

Choose Designated Caregivers

- This step will take considerable time and thought. When choosing a temporary caregiver, consider someone who lives close to your residence. He or she should be someone who is generally home during the day while you are at work or has easy access to your home. A set of keys should be given to this trusted individual. This may work well with neighbors who have pets of their own—you may even swap responsibilities, depending upon who has accessibility.
- When selecting a permanent caregiver, you'll need to consider other criteria. This is a person to whom you are entrusting the care of your pet in the event that something should happen to you. When selecting this “foster parent,” consider people who have met your pet and have successfully cared for animals in the past. Be sure to discuss your expectations at length with a permanent caregiver, so he or she understands the responsibility of caring for your pet.

Prepare Emergency Supplies and Traveling Kits

If you must evacuate your home in a crisis, plan for the worst-case scenario. Even if you think you may be gone for only a day, assume that you may not be allowed to return for several weeks. When recommendations for evacuation have been announced, follow the instructions of local and state officials. To minimize evacuation time, take these simple steps:

- Make sure all pets wear collars and tags with up-to-date identification information. Your pet's ID tag should contain his name, telephone number and any urgent medical needs. Be sure to also write your pet's name, your name and contact information on your pet's carrier.
- Tuolumne County Animal Control, the ASPCA, and local Veterinarians all recommend microchipping your pet as a more permanent form of identification. A microchip is

implanted under the skin in the animal's shoulder area, and can be read by a scanner at most animal shelters. Implantation is very simple, and can cost from \$17-\$50 depending on which microchip company you go with.

- Always bring pets indoors at the first sign or warning of a storm or disaster. Pets can become disoriented and wander away from home in a crisis.
- Store an emergency kit and leashes as close to an exit as possible. Make sure that everyone in the family knows where it is, and that it clearly labeled and easy to carry. Items to consider keeping in or near your "Evac-Pack" include:
 - ✓ Pet first-aid kit and guide book (ask your vet what to include).
 - ✓ 3-7 days' worth of canned (pop-top) or dry food (be sure to rotate every two months).
 - ✓ Disposable litter trays (aluminum roasting pans are perfect).
 - ✓ Litter or paper toweling.
 - ✓ Liquid dish soap and disinfectant.
 - ✓ Disposable garbage bags for clean-up.
 - ✓ Pet feeding dishes and water bowls.
 - ✓ Extra collar or harness as well as an extra leash.
 - ✓ Photocopies and/or USB of medical records and a waterproof container with a two-week supply of any medicine your pet requires (Remember, food and medications need to be rotated out of your emergency kit—otherwise they may go bad or become useless).
 - ✓ At least seven days' worth of bottled water for each person and pet (store in a cool, dry place and replace every two months).
 - ✓ A traveling bag, crate or sturdy carrier, ideally one for each pet.
 - ✓ Flashlight.
 - ✓ Blanket.
 - ✓ Recent photos of your pets (in case you are separated and need to make "Lost" posters).
 - ✓ Especially for cats: Pillowcase, toys, scoop-able litter.
 - ✓ Especially for dogs: Extra leash, toys and chew toys, a week's worth of cage liner.

You should also have an emergency kit for the human members of the family. Items to include: Batteries, duct tape, flashlight, radio, multi-tool, tarp, rope, permanent marker, spray paint, baby wipes, protective clothing and footwear, extra cash, rescue whistle, important phone numbers, extra medication and copies of medical and insurance information.

Social Media and free mobile Apps

The free ASPCA mobile app shows pet parents exactly what to do in case of a natural disaster. It also allows pet owners to store vital medical records and provides information on making life-saving decisions during natural disasters. With a few swipes, you can:

- Access critical advice on what to do with your pet before, during, and after a major storm—even if there's no data connectivity.
- Store and manage your pet's critical health records.
- Receive a personalized missing pet recovery kit, including step-by-step instructions on how to search for a lost animal in a variety of circumstances.
- Build a lost pet digital flyer that can be shared instantly on your social media channels.
- Get the latest and most relevant news about pets and animal welfare.

Following social media group pages gives you access to get the latest updates on evacuation orders, and animal information. These include:

- ✓ Tuolumne County Animal Control
- ✓ Tuolumne County Sheriff
- ✓ ACES (Animal Care Emergency Services)
- ✓ ELITE (Emergency Livestock in Tuolumne County Evacuations)

Special Considerations for Birds

- Birds should be transported in a secure travel cage or carrier.
- In cold weather, make certain you have a blanket over your pet's cage. This may also help reduce the stress of traveling.
- In warm weather, carry a spray bottle to periodically moisten your bird's feathers.
- Have recent photos available, and keep your bird's leg bands on for identification.
- If the carrier does not have a perch, line it for paper towels that you can change frequently.
- Keep the carrier in as quiet an area as possible.
- It is particularly imperative that birds eat on a daily basis, so purchase a timed feeder. If you need to leave your bird unexpectedly, the feeder will ensure his daily feeding schedule.
- Items to keep on hand: Catch net, heavy towel, blanket or sheet to cover cage, cage liner.

Special Considerations for Reptiles

- A snake may be transported in a pillowcase, but you should have permanent and secure housing for him when you reach a safe place.
- Take a sturdy bowl that is large for your pet to soak in. It's also a good idea to bring along a heating pad or other warming device, such as a hot water bottle.
- Lizards can be transported like birds (see above).

Special Considerations for Small Animals

- Small animals, such as hamsters, gerbils, mice and guinea pigs, should be transported in secure carriers with bedding materials, food and food bowls.
- Items to keep on hand: Salt lick, extra water bottle, small hidebox or tube, a week's worth of bedding.