



Companion Animal Evacuation and Sheltering Public Information Materials

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This guide was completed for the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Companion Animal Evacuation and Sheltering project.
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Companion Animal Evacuation and Sheltering Public Information Materials

In accordance with Task 6 of the Companion Animal Evacuation and Sheltering Plan project, model public information messages that may be tailored to the individual jurisdictions were developed. These messages span all four areas of emergency management — mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

The contents of this public information packet include:

Response

- An informational flyer to disperse during the mobilization phase before an impending disaster.
- A sample print press release message intended to be used during the mobilization phase before an impending disaster.
- A sample audio script press release message during the mobilization phase before an impending disaster.
- An informational flyer to disperse post-disaster.
- A sample print press release message intended to be used post-disaster.
- A sample audio script press release message post-disaster.

Recovery

- A sample print press release message.
- A sample audio script press release message.

Mitigation/Preparedness

- A brochure to educate the public on how to prepare themselves and their pets for evacuation and sheltering.

Note: Americans with Disabilities Act Optional Statement for each Public Information Message herein: [Jurisdiction] is committed to nondiscrimination on the basis of disability in all programs, services and activities. Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request. For information, call [Contact name or agency, phone and TTY number].

RESPONSE



Don't leave your pets behind!

Your Pet Needs You To Be Prepared for Disasters



If you have to evacuate, take your pets with you. Make a plan in advance for where to go with your pet.

Items to bring for your pet:

- Enough food and water for 3 days
- Travel cages and leashes or harnesses
- Required medications
- Medical history forms
- Current photo of your pet
- Your pet's favorite toy

Your Pet is Counting on You!

**Animal Services
Management
(###) ### - ####
[street address]
[city, state, zip]**

Insert Jurisdiction
Logo Here

Don't leave your pets behind!

Your Pet Needs You To Be Prepared for Disasters



If you have to evacuate, take your pets with you. Make a plan in advance for where to go with your pet.

Items to bring for your pet:

- Enough food and water for 3 days
- Travel cages and leashes or harnesses
- Required medications
- Medical history forms
- Current photo of your pet
- Your pet's favorite toy

Your Pet is Counting on You!

**Animal Services
Management
(###) ### - #####
[street address]
[city, state, zip]**

**Insert Jurisdiction
Logo Here**

**[Local Animal Control]
Any Town, USA**

Sample Written Press Release Template

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**DON'T LEAVE YOUR PETS BEHIND
Your Pet Needs You to Be Prepared for Disasters**

[Your City, State] (Date) – In preparation for your evacuation from [type of emergency], plan to take your pets with you. The [local Animal Control] is advising that you remember to pack your pet's belongings along with your own. Your pet's lifeline is you. Items to bring for your pet: enough water and food for three days, travel cage and leashes or harnesses, required medications, medical history forms, a current photo of your pet, and your pet's favorite toy.

If you become separated from your pet, please contact the [local Animal Control]; you will be expected to describe what your pet looks like. If you find that your pet was brought to an emergency animal shelter, you should bring a photo for positive identification to retrieve your pet.

The [local Animal Control] phone number is (###) ### - ####.

###

[Local Animal Control] Contact Person
Title
Phone Number

**[Local Animal Control]
Any Town, USA**

Sample Audio Press Release Template

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**DON'T LEAVE YOUR PETS BEHIND
Your Pet Needs You to Be Prepared for Disasters**

[Your City, State] (Date) – If you have to evacuate from [type of emergency], plan to take your pets with you.

The [local Animal Control] is advising that you remember to pack the following items for your pets along with your own:

- Enough water and food for 3 days,
- Travel cage and leashes or harnesses,
- Required medications,
- Medical history forms,
- A current photo of your pet, and
- Your pet's favorite toy.

If you become separated from your pet, please contact the [local Animal Control]; you will be expected to describe what your pet looks like. If you find that your pet was brought to an emergency animal shelter, you should bring a photo for positive identification to retrieve your pet.

The [local Animal Control] phone number is (###) ### - ####.

Your pets are dependant upon you - Do not leave your pets behind!

###

[Local Animal Control] Contact Person
Title
Phone Number

CAN'T FIND YOUR PET?

Your Local Animal Control May Be Able To Help You Find Your Pet



If you got separated from your pet during evacuation, or you left your pet behind, your pet may have been transported to an emergency companion animal shelter.

Please call the [Local Animal Control] for details.

Be prepared to describe what your pet looks like and bring a photo of your pet when you arrive at the shelter.

**Animal Services
Management
(###) ### - ####
[street address]
[city, state, zip]**

Insert Jurisdiction
Logo Here

CAN'T FIND YOUR PET?

Your Local Animal Control May Be Able To Help You Find Your Pet



If you got separated from your pet during evacuation, or you left your pet behind, your pet may have been transported to an emergency companion animal shelter.

Please call the [Local Animal Control] for details.

Be prepared to describe what your pet looks like and bring a photo of your pet when you arrive at the shelter.

**Animal Services
Management
(###) ### - ####
[street address]
[city, state, zip]**

Insert Jurisdiction
Logo Here

**[Local Animal Control]
Any Town, USA**

Sample Written Press Release Template

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**HOMELESS PETS
What to Do If You Find an Abandoned Pet**

[Your City, State] (Date) - Pet owners may have either left their pets behind or become separated from their pets during the evacuation from [type of emergency]. If you find an abandoned pet, Animal Control advises that you call them immediately and do not attempt to capture the animal yourself. In times of distress, animals may become fearful and display acts of aggression towards strangers. To avoid injury and the possible spread of disease, do not touch the animal and call Animal Control as soon as possible.

If you become separated from your pet, please contact the [local Animal Control]; you will be expected to describe what your pet looks like. If you find that your pet was brought to an emergency animal shelter, you should bring a photo for positive identification to retrieve your pet.

The [local Animal Control] phone number is (###) ### - ####.

###

[Local Animal Control] Contact Person
Title
Phone Number

**[Local Animal Control]
Any Town, USA**

Sample Audio Press Release Template

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**HOMELESS PETS
What to Do If You Find an Abandoned Pet**

[Your City, State] (Date) – One of the most upsetting outcomes of [type of emergency] is the separation of pets from their owners – both for the pets and the owners.

If you find an abandoned pet, do not attempt to capture the animal yourself. In times of distress, animals may become fearful and display acts of aggression towards strangers. To avoid injury and the possible spread of disease, do not touch the animal. Call Animal Control immediately.

If you become separated from your pet, please contact the [local Animal Control]; you will be expected to describe what your pet looks like. If you find that your pet was brought to an emergency animal shelter, you should bring a photo for positive identification to retrieve your pet.

The [local Animal Control] phone number is (###) ### - ####.

###

[Local Animal Control] Contact Person
Title
Phone Number

RECOVERY



**[Local Animal Control]
Any Town, USA**

Sample Written Press Release Template

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**LOCATING YOUR PET
What To Do If You've Been Separated from Your Pet**

[Your City, State] (Date) – The bond formed between pets and their guardians represents a lifelong connection between humans and animals. If you have been separated from your pet, please contact the [Local Animal Control] at (###) ### - ####. Quick reunification will benefit not only your pet, it will also benefit you.

When calling the [Local Animal Control] please be prepared to describe what your pet looks like. If you find that your pet was brought to an emergency animal shelter, you should bring a photo for positive identification to retrieve your pet.

###

[Local Animal Control] Contact Person
Title
Phone Number

**[Local Animal Control]
Any Town, USA**

Sample Audio Press Release Template

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**LOCATING YOUR PET
What To Do If You've Been Separated from Your Pet**

[Your City, State] (Date) – The bond between pets and their guardians may never be stronger than during times of distress and disaster. You and your pet can provide needed comfort for each other.

If you have been separated from your pet and need to relocate your animal, please contact the [Local Animal Control] at (###) ### - ####. Quick reunification will benefit not only your pet, it will also benefit you.

When calling the [Local Animal Control] please be prepared to describe what your pet looks like. If you find that your pet was brought to an emergency animal shelter, you should bring a photo for positive identification to retrieve your pet.

Your pet depends on you!

###

[Local Animal Control] Contact Person
Title
Phone Number

MITIGATION & PREPAREDNESS

