



DISASTER RELIEF: TIPS FOR ANIMAL RESCUERS

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1 Keep yourself healthy

- Have a well-stocked first aid kit
- Pack extra medications you take plus prescription info
- Make sure you're up to date on any vaccinations
- Stay clear of hazards: gas leaks, downed power lines, etc.



<https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/index.html>

2 Stay hydrated

Keep clean, potable
water handy at all times

for both you and the animals



3 Have the right tools

- Slip / kennel / long leads
for leashes, harnesses or emergency ropes / tethers
- Collars
to keep hold of animals or clip together as a harness
- Carriers for small animals
or homemade alternatives (styrofoam coolers, tupperware or other rigid containers with air-holes)
- Inflatable rings or rafts
especially for animals too large to carry
- Small lengths of cloth or bandages
to make muzzles or even harnesses



<https://pethelpful.com/dogs/Make-A-Simple-No-Pull-Dog-Harness-from-Things-You-May-Already-Have>

4 Look in common hiding spots

*where pets may be if they're not
confined to a crate or kennel*

- Tops of shelves, wardrobes, etc.
- Inside or behind furniture
- Cars (especially around engines)
- Rafters & roofs
- Cabinets
- Trees
- Other high up or enclosed spaces



5 Know body language

*Take extra precaution when handling
dogs displaying these signals:*

- Hard stare, whale eye, lowered head
- Stiff tail, rigid body, hackles up
- Growling, snarling, snapping
- Lunging or barking with forward posture
- Cowering, tucked tail, hiding

A fearful dog is the most dangerous

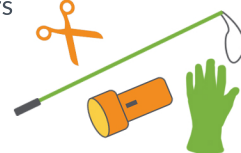
The stress of a disaster is enough to make
any skip many warning signs to a bite



<https://bestfriends.org/resources/scared-dog-how-approach-fearful-dog>

6 More helpful tools

- Catch pole
- Towels & blankets
- Disposable gloves
- Thick work gloves or Kevlar gloves
- Multi-tool & small scissors
- Waterproof flashlight
- Carabiners
- Muzzles
- Treats



www.thewildbeat.com/2010/03/17/the-animal-rescue-kit/

7 Safely transport cats

- Carry by scruff of the neck
(Note: normally not recommended)
- Support body weight on your other arm
- Transfer to a carrier ASAP
- Wrap in a towel



8 Safely transport dogs

- Muzzle if necessary
- Cover with a towel / blanket
- Carry with back pressed against you, limbs facing out
- Transfer to a carrier if possible



9 Safely transport small animals

- Put in separate pillow cases, tops knotted or folded with fasteners
- Put in a rigid container for protection, if possible
- One animal per pillow case
- Do not mix species in carriers

