

Looking After Your Pets

Animal care line

If you need help with your pets during a flood emergency, call the Manitoba government Animal Care Line:

Phone: 204-945-8000 (in Winnipeg)

Toll free: 1-888-945-8001 (outside Winnipeg)

Hours: 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily, including weekends and holidays.

The Animal Care Line works directly with the:

- Winnipeg Humane Society
- City of Winnipeg Animal Services Agency
- Manitoba Emergency Response for Animals (MERA)
- Manitoba Horse Council
- Manitoba Veterinary Medical Association

You can also contact your local municipal office.

Please have all your pets vaccinations up-to-date as boarding kennels will not accept animals without their required shots.

For information on keeping your livestock safe, go to:

[Preparing for Flood Conditions in Rural Manitoba](#).

Before an evacuation

Plan for your animals' care well in advance if there's a chance you may have to evacuate. Pet-friendly facilities will book up quickly as the threat of flooding increases.

- If you can't take pets to where you are going, arrange to have family or friends outside the evacuation zone look after them. You can also arrange to leave them at a kennel, an animal rescue shelter or veterinary office.
- Make arrangements for someone to evacuate your animals for you, if you're not physically onsite when an evacuation happens.
- Get microchip ID for your animals or use an animal ID registry.
- Have proper collars on your pets, any required licences or tags and ID tags with name, address and phone number.
- Have veterinary documents that show your pets have all their required shots (ex: rabies, distemper), particularly if you're using an animal shelter or kennel.
- Prepare an emergency supply kit for your animals.

During an evacuation

- When moving pets, ensure they are in a proper carriers or containers and that they have access to food and emergency care.
- Keep proper animal control equipment with your pet (ex: leads or leashes). Keep pets restrained at all times if you take them out of the evacuated areas. Unfamiliar surroundings, noises and smells can cause them to act out or run away.
- If you can't take your animals with you, put up posters on houses, barns, gateposts and public maps for rescuers giving information about the kind, number and location of the animals that have been left behind. Leave enough food and water for at least three to seven days.
- Leave them in an elevated area that has no risk of electrocution (ex: top floor of a house or loft of a barn or shed) if there is some low-level flooding.
- If you must leave your animals behind, call the Animal Care Line and let them know there are animals on the evacuated site and where to get in contact with you.
- Register your animals' information with the Winnipeg Humane Society data base by calling 204-982-2021 (in Winnipeg).

Emergency supply kit for animals

All animals should wear identification (ex: collars, harnesses or halters with tags, microchips, tattoos, brands). Identification should include:

- owner's name and home address
- owner's emergency address and phone number
- special needs or medication
- or a contact number to get the above information

The carriers you use and supplies you pack should also be labelled with the above information.

- Pack enough fresh water and food (ex: dry kibble, canned food, hay grain, seed), can opener if packing canned food, toys and treats for at least one week.
- Pack extra food and water bowls. Spill-proof containers work best.
- Pack blankets or other covers to keep animals warm, covers for cages, jackets and animal bedding (ex: straw, shavings, towels).
- Pack any heating devices that might be needed (ex: heat lamps for birds).
- Pack restraints for your animals (ex: leashes, collars, halters, ropes).
- Pack a week's supply of any medication your animals need, with clear instructions in case someone else is caring for them.
- Pack sedation for animals that may need it to be moved. Talk to your veterinarian about this.
- Pack at least one week's supplies to clean up after animals (ex: paper towels, scoops, disposal bags, disinfectant, cat litter, litter box).
- Pack a current copy of vet records with contact information for your veterinarian and a copy of the ID for all your animals.
- Pack a current photo of you with your animals/pets just in case they go missing.
- Pack a current list of details about your animals' care in case someone else is caring for them (ex: food/water amount/timing, exercise needs, medication instructions, how to deal with temperament, special needs).

After evacuation

When you return home, keep an eye on your animals and keep them leashed or locked up.

- Familiar scents and landmarks will have changed and can confuse them.
- Downed or exposed power lines, or disrupted wildlife may be a hazard.

Helpful websites

www.manitoba.ca

(Manitoba government website)

www.winnipeghumanesociety.ca/emergency-preparedness

(Winnipeg Humane Society emergency prep site for animals)

www.dogfriendly.com/server/travel/guides/us/usstateMB.shtml

(pet-friendly lodging)

www.petfriendly.ca/manitoba.php

(pet friendly lodging)

www.fema.gov

(U.S. federal government emergency website)

www.paloaltohumane.org/programs/education/disaster.html

(Palo Alto emergency prep site for animals)