



Planning for Your Pets Multi-Day Power Outage

Understanding Your Pet's Needs

Be prepared for an outage lasting 5-7 days or longer

- **Plan to shelter in place.** In preparation for the event ensure you maintain an adequate supply of pet food. Assess your water supply and ensure you will have access to water in the event of an outage. During the outage access to stores may be limited.
- An outage will typically coincide with hot weather. The **health and safety of animals can be affected** in extreme heat. Animals should be provided access to plenty of cool water and shade.
- **Have current information on identification tags and have them securely fastened to your pet's collar.** If your pet gets lost, his tag is his ticket home. Take photos now of your pet for identification purposes. Send that photo to a relative or friend in another community or state.
- If your pet requires medication that must be refrigerated, consult with your veterinarian on options in advance of the outage.
- Electronic fences may go down during an outage. Ensure you have a backup plan to keep dogs and livestock safely contained.
- If you are unable to stay or return to your home due to safety or resources, find boarding for your pet. Remember, most kennels, animal shelters, and veterinary offices will need your pet's vaccination records.

During an Outage

- During hot weather, **avoid strenuous activities with your pet.** Over exertion during hot weather can result in heat stroke and even death.
- If you evacuate your home, do not leave pets behind. Pets cannot survive on their own.

Livestock

Considerations



- ▶ Plan now for the possibility that you and your animals will need to shelter in place without power for multiple days. Ensure you have **access to water** should you lose power and a food supply for a minimum of 5 days.
- ▶ **Shore up fence lines prior to an outage.** Those dependent on electric fencing should ensure there is another mechanism for keeping animals secure.
- ▶ **Plan out sheltering locations in advance.** The evacuation sites should have food, water, and veterinary care, garbage containers for waste disposal, and some type of shade for shelter.
- ▶ **Identify your livestock by having them microchipped or freeze-marked now.** Talk to your veterinarian about the alternatives. If you think you can write your name and phone number on one of their front hooves, try it out now.
- ▶ **Trucks and trailers or other vehicles transporting livestock should be available** along with experienced handlers and drivers to transport them. Try your evacuation plan out first hand.
- ▶ If you evacuate and are unable to evacuate your animals from your property, you need to decide immediately whether to move large animals to another location or turn them in to a large pasture. **Your decision needs to be based on your personal safety, the safety of your property, and the type of disaster you are in.**
- ▶ If you are dependent on a well or electric water pump to access water, obtain a generator or other power back up source.
- ▶ Consult with professionals regarding the care of large ponds in the event of a multi-day power outage.
- ▶ Create a plan for keeping refrigerated pet food in the event of a multi-day outage; ice chests, backup power supply, or other means should be used.
- ▶ Keep veterinary records up to date and in an easy to access place.
- ▶ For their safety and the safety of others, keep dogs on leash or cats in carriers if you choose to leave your home.
- ▶ Consult with your veterinarian before giving refrigerated medications after an outage. These may make your pet ill.
- ▶ During an outage evacuations are not required but may become necessary at any time. Keep your grab and go kit in an easy to access area of your home.

Pet Survival Kit Checklist

- Veterinary records
- Cat litter and cat litter pan
- Can opener, food dishes, enough pet food and bottled water to last five days.
- Leash or harness, muzzle, and toys
- Medications, making sure medications are not expired.
- Cage or carrier for your pet, regardless of the size of your pet. You should always keep your supplies with the cage or carrier so you can easily transport them in.
- Write down and keep your emergency phone numbers in a small address book inside your kit.