



The Humane Society of the United States

Find a safe place to stay ahead of time

Never assume that you will be allowed to bring your pet to an emergency shelter or that shelters nearby will be able to accommodate everyone. **Before a disaster hits**, check the website of your local office of emergency management to see if you will be allowed to evacuate with your pets and verify that there will be shelters in your area that take people and their pets. Also be sure to review how they are managing social distancing needs.

Contact hotels and motels outside your immediate area to find out if they accept pets. Ask about any restrictions on number, size and species. Inquire if a "no pet" policy would be waived in an emergency. Keep a list of animal-friendly places handy, and call ahead for a reservation as soon as you think you might have to leave your home. For help identifying pet-friendly lodgings, check out these websites:

- [Bringfido.com](https://www.bringfido.com)
- [Dogfriendly.com](https://www.dogfriendly.com)
- [Doginmysuitcase.com](https://www.doginmysuitcase.com)
- [Pet-friendly-hotels.net](https://www.pet-friendly-hotels.net)
- [Pets-allowed-hotels.com](https://www.pets-allowed-hotels.com)
- [Petswelcome.com](https://www.petswelcome.com)
- [Tripswithpets.com](https://www.tripswithpets.com)

Make arrangements with friends or relatives. Ask people outside your immediate area if they would be able to shelter you and your pets—or just your pets—if necessary. If you have more than one pet, you may need to arrange to house them at separate locations.

The COVID-19 pandemic has made seeking alternate housing arrangements more complicated. Access to reliable testing is still patchy. That said, if you and the people you hope to shelter with are able to be tested, it may provide some protection in case you need to share a space. You can also try to practice social distancing within the space you're sharing.

Consider a kennel or veterinarian's office. Make a list of boarding facilities and veterinary offices outside your immediate area that are open and might be able to shelter animals in disaster emergencies (make sure to include their 24-hour telephone numbers).

Check with your local animal shelter. Some shelters may be able to provide foster care or shelter for pets in an emergency. But keep in mind that shelters have limited resources and are likely to be stretched during a local emergency; check outside your immediate area as well.

Excerpt from Make a disaster plan for your pets found at <https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/make-disaster-plan-your-pets>