



GUIDANCE FOR PET OWNERS IN AN EMERGENCY



June 2021

Version 1.3



STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL
www.stroud.gov.uk

Amendment Sheet

This document will be reviewed annually by the Civil Contingencies Unit (CCU), and any necessary amendments will be included. Any revisions required by officers of the Council or partner agencies are to be forwarded to nikki.humphries@stroud.gov.uk for consideration.

Amendment Number	Date of Amendment	Comments	Signature
1.2	June 2017	Refresh of guidance and telephone number check	N Humphries
1.3	June 2021	Refresh of guidance and telephone number check	N Humphries

Introduction

This document is designed to assist the reader in preparations for their pet if the unexpected occurs it does not tailor for every type of pet however it has been prepared taking into account non stereotypical pets.

Evacuations can be necessary for a number of reasons, from major incidents such as floods and fires, to small scale incidents involving gas leaks. They can last from a few hours to several days or longer, so it is best to be prepared.

It is important to note that in the event of an evacuation the **Council will not accept responsibility for pets. Pet owners are solely responsible for their own pets' safety and welfare.**

Alternative Accommodation

If you must evacuate during an emergency, take your pet with you - **do not leave them in your home on their own.** However, if you are going to a Rest Centre, it is important to understand that, depending on the location of the Rest Centre, animals may not be able to be accommodated. However staff at the Rest Centre will work with you to find suitable alternative accommodation if this is the case. If you have more than one pet, they may be more comfortable if kept together, but be prepared to temporarily house them separately. To prepare for this, please make arrangements in advance for your pet to stay with family or friends in the event of an emergency wherever possible.

Assistance Animals who assist people with disabilities will, of course, be permitted in the Rest Centre.

Pet Supplies

Create a stock of supplies so you are ready for an evacuation. This should include:

- Food – enough for 3 days. Store in an airtight, water-proof container
- Water – 3 days worth
- Medication – also have the name and dosage of the medication written down
- Harness or leash
- Pet carrier or crate
- Important documents (e.g. vaccination records/insurance)
- Sanitation goods e.g. pet litter and box, plastic bags and newspaper or paper towels
- Contact numbers e.g. vet, cattery/kennel, animal shelter
- Familiar items e.g. favourite toy, bedding (this will reduce the stress of your pet)
- Pet first aid kit – this should contain items such as a towel/board to act as a stretcher, non-stick bandages, adhesive tape, sterile saline solution for flushing wounds and eyes, gauze, towels or cloth to stem bleeding

What if I have to leave my pet behind?

If you have to leave your pets behind ensure you do the following:

- Do not tether/tie them.
- Leave them in a room with plenty of free-space, upstairs if a flood risk.
- Never leave them if risk is fire.
- Leave enough food and water for 3 days (per animal).
- Ensure your pet is wearing identification (where appropriate).
- Leave a note on your front door, or somewhere immediately visible, for the emergency services advising them there are animals in the house, what those animals are and where they are.

How to deal with livestock and tethered horses?

Whether you are a commercial farmer or simply own a pet pig, you should consider what action you would take should you be asked to evacuate your home. With livestock and large animals it is important to ACT EARLY.

- Transportation - If you own pet livestock ensure you have a suitable trailer to transport your pet, or immediate access to one. Commercial farmers should have their own transport or a list of livestock haulier's to call in an emergency.
- If flood risk, move animals to high ground as soon as possible.
- Plan your evacuation route in advance, plus an alternative should the route be blocked.
- Accommodation – plan in advance where you would house your animals.
- Attach your details to field gates so you can be contacted in an emergency.
- Take food/water supplies with you.

Never put your own life or the lives of others at risk to attempt to rescue an animal.

Preparing your pets for an emergency

You may wish to consider the following points in order to prepare your pets prior to an emergency.

	✓	✗
Evacuation Plan		
If you are asked to leave your home can your pet stay with a friend or family member?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
How will you transport your pet – do you have carriers and leads suitable for their needs? Do you have leads and harnesses? Make sure the carriers have adequate supply of bedding.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have food, bedding, water bowls, litter trays poop scoops and bags? Do you have their favourite toy?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have any medication they require?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have copies of their vaccinations and insurance documents?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have copies of their micro chip numbers? Are the addresses on their information up to date?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have a photo of them?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does your pet have a collar and name tag with your contact number?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	✓	✗
Exotic Pets		
Can your pet be transported?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have a carrier suitable for their needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
How will you maintain the correct conditions for your pet?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have a supply of any specialist food they require?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	✓	✗
Garden Pets		
Make sure that hutches are in good repair and are weather tight	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If severe weather is forecast move hutches under cover if possible e.g. shed or garage.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you are forced to leave your pet behind tell the local authority once you have reached the rest centre. If possible take a spare set of keys to your home so that the Councils Animal Welfare Officers or the Police are able to access your pet if you are unable to do so.