

# PETS EVACUATION AND TRANSPORTATION STANDARDS ACT OF 2006



FEMA was mandated by the federal government in the PETS EVACUATION AND TRANSPORTATION STANDARDS ACT OF 2006 to ensure that state and local emergency preparedness plans address the needs of individuals with household pets and service animals.

The PETS Act (US Senate **Public Law** HR #3858: 109-308 10/06/2006) authorizes FEMA to provide rescue, care, shelter, and essential needs for individuals with household pets and service animals and to the household pets and animals themselves following a major disaster or emergency. That means that wherever an emergency shelter is designated by the state or county for humans in an emergency, they also must have facilities secured for the domestic animals of those humans, meeting the criteria of proof of ownership, rabies vaccination/licensure and containment in a crate or carrier.



**LEAVING *PETS* OUT OF *EVACUATION* PLANS CAN PUT *PETS*, PET OWNERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS IN DANGER.**

**It is too dangerous to leave companion animals unattended during natural disasters.** The best way to ensure the safety of your pets is to evacuate them with you.

**IN A MANDATORY EVACUATION SITUATION,  
YOU WILL NOT BE GRANTED RE-ENTRY TO YOUR HOME  
TO GET A PET ONCE YOU HAVE LEFT THE AREA.**

Make sure that you have planned for your pet in your evacuation/disaster plans. Protect your treasured family member (cat or dog) with a collar, ID chip, California Animal License tag, a leash and folding carrier/cage. Store the "Pet Go-Bag" with your own "Go-Bag" supplies.

In a crisis, pets often bolt and run away in fear or hide and cannot be located. If your animal is skittish about being put in the crate, make it a game with good rewards when they are successfully captured and crated. A kitchen towel can be placed over the animal's eyes to lessen the trauma of being put in a crate.

Once they see out of the crate sides and see the owner, they should be more relaxed. A soft blanket/familiar toy inside the crate will help make the container more comforting.

**A public shelter has the right to not allow domestic animals in the areas where shelter victims are eating or sleeping, but those same public shelters **MUST HAVE DESIGNATED AREAS FOR HOUSEHOLD PETS IN CRATES** that arrive with shelter occupants. These areas are near the sheltered victims, but in a separate area and manned by emergency volunteers.**



**REGISTERED, LICENSED OR CERTIFIED SERVICE ANIMALS  
ARE ALWAYS KEPT WITH THEIR OWNERS.**  
(Bring the animal's Official Certification)

