

Ventura County Animal Services

Animal Evacuations during Emergencies

Take your animals with you if you can. Call us at **1-888-223-PETS or 805-388-4341** if you need assistance evacuating your animals. Tell us where your animals are located. Give us an exact description, location and all pertinent information so we can get staff and volunteers to your animals in time.

DO NOT WAIT until the fire or floodwaters are at your property line. Get out at the first hint of impending danger. We must have your permission to go onto or into your property to retrieve your animals if you are not present. You can give permission over the phone.

If you can evacuate your animals but need a place to keep them, call us for a location to house them. Many businesses and private citizens offer facilities for temporary animal housing. We may ask you to take your animal to a temporary place to wait for a suitable location. Never assume that places like the Ventura Fairgrounds are in use during disasters.. Many circumstances dictate which facilities we can use. Call us and listen to radio stations KVTA (AM 1520) or KHAY (FM 100.7) for updates. You can keep small animals or house pets with you in your vehicle or RV, or bring them to one of our [shelters](#) below for no cost.

Make a List

Having to leave your home and possessions when they are threatened, not knowing what will happen, when you will get to return and what condition it will be in when you return is frightening. If you live in an area that could be evacuated you can prepare and organize. An "Evacuation Checklist" should include:

- Critical medications.
- Important personal papers, photos.
- Essential valuables.
- Pet and livestock transport, limited amount of pet food.
- Change of clothing, toiletries.
- Cell phone.
- Critical papers and effects in a fireproof safe.
- Plan an Evacuation Route with at least two ways out.

Drive your planned escape route before the emergency. Law enforcement may alter escape routes during an emergency.

Stay informed. Listen to your radio or TV. The Ventura County Fire Department http://www.fire.ca.gov/communications/animal_evacuation.php will post updated evacuation information.

When an evacuation may be necessary:

Ventura County Animal Services

- Use the “Evacuation Checklist” above to assemble your items and place them in your vehicle.
- Park your car facing out and carry your keys with you.
- Keep your pets nearby.
- Prepare farm animals for transport.
- Remove flammables from around your home.
- Wear 100% cotton clothing- long pants, long sleeve shirt, heavy shoes/boots, cap, dry bandanna to cover face, goggles or glasses.

Law enforcement will normally conduct evacuations. For your safety, please follow their directions promptly. Every effort will be made to keep you informed during the evacuation process. Check the California Fire Department's animal evacuation page.

Our Shelters and Kennels

Camarillo Animal Shelter
[600 Aviation Drive](#)
Camarillo, CA 93010

Simi Valley Animal Shelter
[670 West Los Angeles Avenue](#)
Simi Valley, CA 93065

Horses

Horses are a particular concern during disasters. Many people have no or limited access to horse trailers. Not to worry, we have horse and livestock trailers of various sizes and configurations that we will bring to you. However, during a disaster we cannot spend precious minutes teaching your horse how to load in a trailer. If you do not regularly trailer your horse(s) it is critical that you borrow, beg or rent a trailer periodically and practice loading your horses. If our staff or volunteers can't get your animal loaded in 15 minutes they are going to have to leave it and move on to the next horse.

Exotic Animals and “Overages”

If you have unusual, exotic or special needs animals, please let us know. Special handling may be required.

If you have more animals than you are zoned for, don't try to hide it. During a recent wild land fire, a kennel operator was only licensed for 30 dogs. When she called, we repeatedly asked how many dogs she had to evacuate so we could send the right equipment. She insisted she had only 30 dogs. We knew her to be a “stretcher of the truth” so sent trucks for double that. No one was terribly surprised to find more than 130 dogs. Fortunately, we had livestock trailers nearby that we diverted to her kennel and all the dogs were safely rescued.

In the midst of a disaster no one cares whether the animals are legal, we just care about saving lives.