

3. Things to keep in mind at evacuation shelters and temporary housing sites

Consideration for those around you

While many former evacuees have said that animals were a calming and supportive presence at evacuation shelters, there has also been a fair share of problems with barking and people getting bit, as well as hygienic concerns from drifting animal hair.

Some evacuees may not like animals or may have allergies, and there will likely also be many children at evacuation shelters. So, pet owners are expected to handle their pets with extra care and consideration for others.

At the evacuation shelter, pet owners are responsible for caring for their pets, acquiring their food, and managing their feeding areas. Pet owners should help each other and establish rules in consideration of others.

When moving into temporary housing, unnecessary problems can be avoided by designating areas where pets are and are not allowed before moving in.



Managing your pet's health

Animals experience a great deal of stress during disasters. Resources and supplies may also run low. Weakened immune systems and less than ideal hygienic conditions may cause both people and animals to become weak and ultimately fall ill.

To maintain proper hygiene, pet owners must have their pets eliminate in designated areas and clean up as quickly as possible.

Animals can also be affected by stress, resulting in unnecessary barking, aggressiveness, appetite loss, constipation, or diarrhea. Make sure to be mindful of their health and reduce any sources of anxiety.



If you are staying in your vehicle during an evacuation, be aware of deep vein thrombosis and heat stroke!

Be careful about deep vein thrombosis, which can be caused by poor circulation in your legs, and heat stroke. The interior of your vehicle can get very hot, so be mindful of the high temperature in your vehicle and the availability of drinking water for your pet.

