

Looking after Your Pets

Animal Care Line

Winnipeg: 204-945-8000

Toll free: 1-888-945-8001

Regular hours: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

After hours: calls go to an answering machine that is monitored regularly. The Manitoba government's Animal Care Line co-ordinates requests for help from pet owners and hobby farm owners that may be affected by flooding. The Animal Care Line works directly with the following agencies:

- Winnipeg Humane Society
- City of Winnipeg Animal Services Agency
- Manitoba Emergency Response for Animals (MERA)
- Manitoba Horse Council
- Manitoba Veterinary Medical Association

For information on keeping your livestock safe, go to:

[Preparing for Flood Conditions in Rural Manitoba.](#)

Before an Evacuation

Plan for your animals' care well in advance if there's a chance you may have to evacuate during a flood. Many pet-friendly facilities will book up quickly as the threat of flooding increases:

- If you can't take them to wherever you are going, arrange to have family or friends outside the evacuation zone look after them; or arrange to leave them at a kennel, animal rescue or shelter or at a veterinary office.
- Make arrangements in advance for someone to evacuate your animals for you, if you're not physically onsite when an evacuation is enforced.
- It's a good idea to get microchip ID for your animals or use an animal ID registry.
- Your pets should have proper collars, any required licence or tags and an ID tag with your name, address and phone number.
- Make sure you have the documents that show your pets have all required shots (rabies, distemper), particularly if you're using an animal shelter or kennel.
- Prepare an emergency kit of supplies for your animals.

During an Evacuation

- When moving pets, ensure they are in a proper transportation kennel or container and have access to food and emergency care.
- Keep proper animal control equipment with the animal, including leads or leashes. Keep your animals restrained at all times if you take them out of the evacuated areas. Unfamiliar surroundings, noises and smells can frighten them and cause them to act out or run away.
- If an emergency evacuation makes it impossible for you to take your animals with you, put up posters on houses, barns, gateposts and public maps for rescuers with information about the kind, number, location, etc. of animals that have been left behind. Leave enough food and water for at least three to seven days. Leave these supplies in an elevated area that poses no risk of electrocution to the animals (ex: top floor of a house or loft of a barn or shed).
- If you are forced to leave your animals behind, contact the Animal Care Line and let them know there are animals on the evacuated site and where to get in contact with you. Also, register your animals' information with the Winnipeg Humane Society data base. Call 204-982-2021 in Winnipeg.

Emergency Supply Kit for Animals

- Animals should all have identification (collars, harnesses or halters with tags; microchips, tattoos, brands). Identification should include (or give contact number to find out) owner's name, home address, emergency address and phone, special needs, medication, etc.
- The transportation equipment you use and supplies you pack should also have all this information.
- Pack enough fresh water for at least one week.
- Pack enough food for at least one week (ex: dry kibble, canned food, hay grain, seed, can opener if packing canned food), toys and treats.
- Include extra food and water bowls, sippers, etc. Spill-proof containers work best.
- Pack blankets or other coverings to keep animals warm, coverings for cages, jackets, and animal bedding (ex: straw, shavings, towels).
- Also include any heating devices that might be needed (ex: heat lamps for birds).
- Pack restraints you may need for your animals (ex: leashes, collars, halters, ropes).
- Make sure you have a week's supply of any medication your animals need, with clear instructions in case someone else is caring for your animals.
- Include sedation for animals that may need it to be moved – talk to your veterinarian.
- Have at least one week's supplies to clean up after animals (ex: paper towels, scoops and disposal bags, disinfectant, cat litter, litter box).
- Keep a current copy of vet records with contact information for your veterinarian on hand and a copy of the ID for all animals.
- It's also a good idea to include a current photo of you with your animals/pets.
- Keep a current list of details about your animals' care in case someone else is caring for them (ex: food/water amount/timing, exercise needs, medication instructions, how to deal with temperament, special needs).

After Evacuation

When you return home, keep an eye on your animals:

- Familiar scents and landmarks will have changed and can confuse animals.
- Downed or exposed power lines, or disrupted wildlife may be a hazard.
- Keep animals leashed or locked up until they seem calm and act normally.

Helpful websites

www.manitoba.ca

(Manitoba government website)

www.winnipeghumanesociety.ca/article;story,143;Flood-Preparedness-for-Your-Pet

(Winnipeg Humane Society emergency prep site for animals)

www.dogfriendly.com/server/travel/uscities/guides/us/cities/usonlinecityMBWinnipeg.shtml

(pet-friendly lodging)

www.Petfriendly.ca/list/Manitoba.php

(pet friendly lodging)

www.fema.gov/individual/animals

(U.S. federal government emergency website)

www.paloaltohumane.org/education/disaster.php

(Palo Alto emergency prep site for animals)