

### **Pets/Animals - After a Disaster**

- Survey the area inside and outside your home to identify sharp objects, dangerous materials, dangerous wildlife, contaminated water, downed power lines, or other hazards.
- Examine your animals closely and contact your veterinarian immediately if you observe injuries or signs of illness.
- Familiar scents and landmarks may have changed, and this can confuse your animals.
- Contain equine/livestock in safe and enclosed areas only. Initial release should take place during daylight hours, when the animals can be closely observed.
- Contain cats, dogs and other small animals indoors only. They could encounter dangerous wildlife and debris if they are allowed outside unsupervised and unrestrained. Outdoor fences and barriers may have been destroyed or damaged. Ash, flood waters and other contaminants may be present.
- Keep birds and reptiles contained in their cage or habitat.
- Reintroduce food in small servings, gradually working up to full portions if animals have been without food for a prolonged period of time.
- Allow uninterrupted rest/sleep for all animals to recover from the trauma and stress.
- Planning and preparation will help you weather the disaster, but your home may be a very different place afterward, whether you have taken shelter at home or elsewhere.
- Be patient with your pets after a disaster. Try to get them back into their normal routines as soon as possible and be ready for behavioral problems that may result from the stress of the situation. If behavioral problems persist, or if your pet seems to be having any health problems, talk to your veterinarian.

**Coconino County Health and Human Services**

Animal Management

928-679-8756

[www.coconino.az.gov/health](http://www.coconino.az.gov/health)

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