

WHERE CAN WE GO? MOTELS Advice on Evacuating With Pets



From the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

Sometimes family and friends cannot offer shelter. Maybe they live too near the same hazards that confront you or they live too far away. Maybe their households are full, they suffer from allergies, or their pets and yours won't get along. If family and friends are not an option, consider purchasing a few nights of pet-friendly accommodations.

Many motels, hotels, B&Bs, and inns will allow you to check in with your pets, albeit with particular, varying restrictions (e.g., a maximum size or number of pets, a fee or deposit, particular sorts of restraints or crates). It is wise, then, to learn about options and restrictions well in advance, before picking a destination plus a few back-ups.

Make a reservation for you and your pets as soon as an evacuation seems possible. Even with a reservation, vacancies will become precious; so you should phone ahead to reconfirm. Be sure that there is still room for you and your pets and that you bring whatever documents (e.g., rabies certificate, veterinarian contact information), supplies, or payment that the management may require. In nearly all circumstances, you and your pet will be better off bringing along a **Pet ID Pack** (at least one for each pet) in a waterproof package and a **Go Kit**, with supplies for a few days. [Recommended Contents](http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/erp/6_8_a1.pdf) are listed on-line at <http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/erp/6_8_a1.pdf>

Pet-friendly lodging is common among national chains and is easy to find on-line. See, for example, "pets welcome" logos by RI accommodations listed at visitrhodeisland.com. Additional options may be found for RI as well as neighboring states at petswelcome.com, petfriendlyhotel.org, or pets-allowed-hotels.com, or through general-purpose reservation systems like hotel-guides.us, specifying "pets accepted" under the "features" that you require.

Finally, some lodgers that do not normally allow pets will agree to accept them in a state or federal emergency. Information about those alternatives in RI will be publicized, once an emergency is officially declared.