

WHERE CAN WE GO? Advice on Evacuating With Pets



From the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

Even if you think it will be unnecessary, identify a specific, safe place for you and your pets to go. Just about any place that is a safe distance from hazards – such as flooding or noxious fumes – is going to be more comfortable than at home in their path or in a public shelter. Alternatives include the home of a relative or friend, a pet-friendly motel, or a boarding kennel that is a safe distance away, on an established evacuation route. As a last resort, you may find a vacancy at a local pound or animal shelter.

Check well in advance to be sure that at least one or some combination of these options will work for you and your animals to wait safely for the emergency to pass. If possible, call ahead to confirm what documents, cash, or supplies may be required and to verify that space remains available.

Here are links to resources that may accommodate your animals:

[PET-FRIENDLY MOTELS](#)

[BOARDING KENNELS](#)

[POUNDS AND SHELTERS LICENSED IN RHODE ISLAND](#) (RI DEM)

[RHODE ISLAND AND SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS ANIMAL SHELTERS AND DOG BREED RESCUE PROGRAMS](#) (RIVMA)

If disasters entail large evacuations or local shelters exceed their capacity, back-up sheltering may be available from one or more of the following Rhode Island State Emergency Pet Shelters (RISEPS):

- Pawtucket Animal Shelter, Slater Park, 401 Newport Ave, Pawtucket, RI 02860. Phone: 401-729-7496.
- Potter League for Animals, 87 Oliphant Lane, Middletown, RI 02842. Phone: 401-846-8276.
- South Kingstown Animal Shelter, 132 Asa Pond Road, Wakefield, RI 02879. Phone: 401-789-5515
- Westerly Animal Shelter, 33 Larry Hirsch Lane, Westerly, RI 02891. Phone: 401-596-2022.

For directions on animal care before, during, and after a disaster, see the [Advice for Animal Owners](#) at <<http://www.dem.ri.gov/animals>>. Among the most important tips are:

1. Stay informed and prepare for conditions to change. Be ready to evacuate with your animals BEFORE travel could become unsafe.
2. If you go anywhere, **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PETS HOME ALONE!!**
3. Consider public shelters a last resort. Do NOT assume that shelters for people will accept animals (except for service animals such as guide dogs), unless a separate emergency animal care center has also been opened nearby.

- Check press releases, your local emergency manager or public safety office to see where public pet sheltering is possible.
 - Take responsibility for moving your own pets or arranging their transfer to an appropriate facility.
 - Be sure that animals are properly identified, healthy, and restrained. Otherwise, shelters may refuse to accept them.
4. No matter where you go, bring 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>.