

What to Do to Keep Your Dog Safe Before and During a Flood

Flood Preparedness for Dogs

Before a Flood Occurs

- Prepare an [evacuation kit for your dog](#).
- Make sure your **dog's ID tags contain your most updated information**, including a family member's cellphone if you're unable to be reached.
- **Update your dog's microchip** information within days of moving to a new home. Again, add a close family member's contact information just in case you're unable.
- Download a [pet first aid app](#) for your smartphone; you never know when you'll need it.
- If you haven't created a [pet first aid kit](#), I advise you to do so or at least purchase one now.

If Your Home Floods

- **Never leave your dog home alone during a flood.** If you evacuate, your dog must go with you. It's not fair to leave your dog alone to fend for herself; it's like leaving a small child behind in floodwater.
- **Your dog will be scared.** Everything looks and smells different plus you're freaking out. Your dog will sense your anxiety and freak out as well.
- **Don't crate or tie out your dog.** She needs freedom to move away from rising waters.
- Block the flooded area with furniture, crates or [baby gates](#). Floodwater is contaminated with sewage. When flooding occurs, sewage backs up and spills out into floodwater. Plus, many biting insects ride along the water's surface, so **it's vital to keep your dog away from floodwater.**
- **Place clean bowls of fresh water** on top of furniture, fireplace stoops and coffee tables.
- When bringing **your dog out to potty, bring her on leash** so long as the floodwater level is safe for your dog's height.
- If floodwater is high in your backyard, or your dog [refuses to potty in floodwater](#), **I recommend creating a safe potty area in your home with potty pads.** Make sure to place potty pads away from floodwater—even if it's on a higher surface area.
- Make sure your dog is wearing a collar, and **keep a leash handy** if needed.

If Your Dog is Separated From you

- **Send out an urgent "my dog is lost" message on social media.** Post a current description of your dog, last seen location, your current contact information, a friend's contact information and picture of your dog on all your social media channels. Make sure to change the setting to public, so your story can be shared over and over again.
- **Search through Twitter and Facebook for local "lost pets" pages,** and post your dog's information along with your current contact information. Contact Animal Control and local makeshift shelters. Their phone lines will be busy, but keep calling.
- **Don't stop looking:** Animal shelters are packed with lost animals during floods, so keep checking and let everyone know your story.