

Disaster Preparedness for Rabbits

While many people have prepared their family for a natural disaster, have you thought about what your rabbits need? Well, now's the time to prepare. This article covers the following topics:

- You Evacuate & Can Bring Your Rabbits
- You Evacuate & Can't Bring Your Rabbits
- Shelter In Place
- You Can't Get Home For The Evening
- Go Kit, Grab List, Info List Discussion
 - Go Kit & Grab List
 - Info List
- Go Kit, Grab List, Info List Summary
 - Go Kit
 - Grab List
 - Info List
- Other Info
 - Pet Sitter List
 - Wallet List
 - Window Sticker
 - Where to Shelter Your Rabbits
 - Microchip ID Information
 - Your Will

Note that the info here is also useful when travelling with your rabbits.

Don't be overwhelmed by how much planning this takes. Just do a little bit at a time. Eventually, you'll have a great disaster plan.

You Evacuate & Can Bring Your Rabbits

In this scenario, you have to evacuate & are able to get your rabbits out of your house.

You may or may not be there at the time. If you are NOT there, consult your Info List & contact the person that can evacuate your rabbits.

If no one can evacuate your rabbits, you'll want to let rescue workers know there are rabbits in the house. Before a disaster, post a sign in the window (see Window Sticker).

If you ARE there, you may have seconds or hours or days to get out. Plan your actions accordingly. Put your rabbits into the carriers first. That way, you can rush out with your

rabbits at a moment's notice. Also, if your rabbits are free roaming, they might hide with all the commotion. Then check your Go Kit & gather other things you need. Put everything into your car.

"Scruffing" a rabbit (picking it up by the scruff of its neck) is usually not advised. However, during an evacuation, you may need to get out NOW, so you might need to scruff your rabbit (& support its rear end with the other hand), as it might be a lot faster.

No matter what officials say, you will not know how long you will be gone. Thus, take as much rabbit food & other expendables as you can.

It's best to evacuate even before it's mandatory. Otherwise, the roads might be clogged or it might be too late to leave.

If you evacuate with your rabbits, & have time, remove the Window Sticker (that says rabbits live there) so rescue workers will not waste time looking for them.

Place your carrier in the car so that the side of the carrier faces the front of the car. That way, if you have to slam on the brakes, the rabbit will hit the side rather than the door of the carrier & will have a shorter distance to travel. Do not open the carrier when a car door is open. If you are in the car for a long period of time, stop frequently to feed & water your rabbit. They must eat/drink frequently.

Water bottles usually drip during a car ride, plus rabbits usually don't drink in a moving car. So best to have a water BOWL & stop frequently to give your rabbits a drink.

You might end up in a hotel. Be sure to have a list of rabbit friendly hotels.

If it is a wide spread disaster, most hotels will be full. If you have friends that can take you or your rabbits or both, great!

Or you might have to stay in a shelter that's setup by an organization that helps those in disaster. Many such shelters cannot take animals. In this case, your local animal shelter or other agencies may shelter your rabbits for awhile.

During a disaster, an agency might setup a temporary shelter for animals. While such an agency probably knows how to care for dogs & cats, it might not know how to care for rabbits. If that is the case, show them this article about setting up a disaster shelter for rabbits & how to care for rabbits. It's written for people who do not know how to care for rabbits.

http://curiousbunny.com/disaster_shelter.pdf

Or you may need to board your rabbits. As soon as you know this might be needed, make a reservation. During a disaster, they will fill up quickly.

Comfort your rabbits frequently, as they will probably be quite stressed. Also watch for medical signs (e.g., changes in feces, injuries) & behavioral issues that may indicate your rabbits are stressed. If you find even a small cut, be sure to treat it as soon as you can.

Your rabbits should be microchipped. If you evacuate with your rabbits, write your cell phone # in their ears (see Microchip ID Information).

During the evacuation, you might have lost your cell phone or it might be out of power. Be sure you know how to get phone messages & text messages using another phone.

When the disaster is over & you get home, your rabbits might be stressed. Spend extra time with your rabbits to help them feel comfortable. Be sure your rabbits have a calm environment. Watch for medical & behavioral issues.

You Evacuate & Can't Bring Your Rabbits

If it's not safe for you, it's not safe for your rabbits. However, sometimes it's just not possible to take your rabbits with you.

If you have to leave your rabbits behind, leave extra food & water. It's handy to have an automatic feeder. Be sure the cord is protected or get a battery powered device. Put your cell # in your rabbit's ear (see Microchip ID Information).

As soon as possible (or even beforehand), find out if there is an agency that can come get your rabbits. Give them all the info they need to get your rabbits. In some cases, they may be able to care for your rabbits in your home but cannot remove them. In case that happens, leave out all the Lists so they know how to care for your rabbits. Also leave the carriers & all the food & other equipment out where it can easily be found.

Rescue workers might go into evacuated areas before you have a chance to call them. In case that happens, put a large sign on your front door pointing to your Window Sticker so they know about the rabbits in your house.

Shelter In Place (Major Disaster Nearby But Can Stay In Home)

In this scenario, there is a major disaster, but you can still stay in your house (called shelter in place). For example, there is extreme flooding, but your house is dry. But roads & businesses are closed, ATM's do not work & you have no electricity, gas or water. If businesses are open, their supplies are very limited.

You want to make sure you can care for your rabbits for awhile. Authorities recommend to plan for 3 days, but 7 days is better & 2 months is best. See the Go Kit list to make sure you have a complete list of items that need to be kept in quantity. Before the disaster, when

running low on food pellets, hay, litter & medicine, be sure you buy more before you get down to the last nubbins.

Keep in mind that rabbits can live without food pellets for awhile if they have enough hay. Watch out for weight loss. Rabbits can also live without hay if they have pellets. In this case, increase the amount of pellets & the number of feedings. You want them to be eating throughout the day.

Keep reusable ice packs (or ice) in the freezer. When the power goes out, keep the refrigerator & freezer doors closed as much as possible. Put the rabbit greens in an enclosed space like the crisper drawer & add an ice pack. Cover it all with a towel. When the ice pack gets warm, replace it with another frozen ice pack. This will keep the greens fresh longer. If the greens spoil, consult your Info List to see what greens you can pick from your garden.

Another option is to freeze the greens. Be aware that after they thaw, they will spoil quickly. Also, your rabbits might not like the texture. Another option is to dehydrate the greens. Keep in mind rabbits can live without greens, so don't worry about this too much.

Ahead of time, think about which room in your house can be designated as a "safe room". It should be a room with few windows & few exterior walls. If a disaster is imminent but you can't leave, put all your rabbit supplies & your rabbits in the safe room.

When utilities are out, communities might make available heating or cooling centers for the public. If they take pets, you can bring your rabbits there.

You Can't Get Home For The Evening

In this scenario, you are in a car accident & have to spend a few days in the hospital. Or you have to go to the hospital on very short notice. Or you are away from home & all roads are closed for a few days because of flooding. Who is going to care for your rabbits? This is a concern for people who live alone, or if the whole family is away.

Ahead of time, arrange for someone to take care of your rabbits if you are not able to be at home. Keep that person's contact info in your wallet (see Wallet List). If you are unconscious, first responders will probably find the info in your wallet. If you are conscious, you can call that person, using the info in your wallet.

If your hospital stay turns out to be long term, your rabbit caretaker may not be able to continue with the daily care. In this case, you might have to board your rabbits or have a friend care for them in their own home. The contact info for these facilities will be on the Info List. The Info List will also have contact info of knowledgeable rabbit people who could answer questions from your rabbit caretaker if needed.

Your rabbit caretaker might not be able to come everyday. In this case, it would be handy to have an automatic feeder. Be sure the cord is protected or get a battery powered device.

Go Kit, Grab List, Info List Discussion

This section contains a discussion of what goes in the Go Kit, Grab List & Info List. For easy reference, a summary is at the end. Keep all these lists (& the lists that follow) in the Go Kit.

You may also want to keep some of the info your wallet, in your car(s), at work, with a friend who lives out of the area, on your cell phone, in the cloud (internet) or email it to yourself so it's on the web (be careful about privacy).

Update all the lists annually.

Make sure everyone who might care for your rabbits knows where the instructions are about caring for your rabbits. Put a note on the refrigerator that says, "Rabbit care instructions are in <specify location>". Or put a note INSIDE the refrigerator that says the same. First responders sometimes look there.

Go Kit & Grab List

You'll need a Go Kit for your rabbits. Note that you'll also need a Go Kit for yourself, but that's not the topic of this article.

A Go Kit is something that holds rabbit supplies that you can grab & be out the door quickly. Be sure it's sturdy & easy to carry (e.g., a small backpack or duffle bag). Make sure it's clearly labeled with "Rabbit Go Kit", your name & cell #. Ensure every family member knows where it is. It's handy to keep the Go Kit outside of the house, e.g., in a storage shed. That way, if the house is destroyed, you could still get the Go Kit.

Some items are too large for a Go Kit (e.g., exercise pen, bag of litter). For these items, make a Grab List of where they are so you'll know exactly what to take & where to get them. It is up to you what you put in the Go Kit versus the Grab List. Order the Grab List so the most important items are first. You may have only minutes to evacuate so may not be able to take everything. Put your Grab List in a prominent place in your Go Kit.

For items that expire (e.g., medicine, food), you could keep some in the Go Kit, but you would have to rotate them regularly. Thus, it might be easier to add them to the Grab List. For medicine that has to be refrigerated, of course it cannot be in the Go Kit & MUST be on the Grab List.

You may need to walk quite a distance & carry a lot of things. Consider having "wheels" available for your stuff, e.g., 2 or 4 wheeled dolly, small wagon, wheel barrow, rolling luggage, etc.

You want to have enough consumables (food pellets, hay, litter, medicine, water) to last during the disaster. However, you never know how long a disaster will last. Authorities recommend to plan for 3 days, but 7 days is better. In reality, it could be 2 months or longer.

Even if the disaster does not last long, getting supplies to your area could be troublesome for quite some time. Thus if you have the funds & the storage, it's good to have supplies that will last for 2 months or longer. If you don't want to have so much in storage, at least when a disaster is coming your way, including a pandemic, stock up then. Know multiple places where you can get your supplies, in case your normal store is out of stock.

Storing collapsible bowls (for food, water & critical care) will take up less space.

Since hay takes up a lot of space, consider using hay cubes, since they are compressed hay & take up a very small volume. They are much easier to store & transport. Write the date of purchase on the bag so you know when to rotate them for fresh ones.

Have enough carriers for all of your rabbits & you know where they are. The carriers should be secure. Fabric carriers are usually ok for a quick trip to the vet (veterinarian), but the rabbits might chew through them if they are in them for quite some time. The carriers should be large enough so the rabbits can turn around. Your rabbits might be living out of them for awhile so be sure it has room for food & water bowls (or a way to hang a water bottle). There should be a blanket on the floor. On the carrier, write your rabbits' names, your name, your cell # & an out of area friend's cell #. You can store your Go Kit or other items in the carriers.

Think about if it's best to put your rabbits in individual carriers or if it's best for them to be in one carrier. If it's difficult for you to put your rabbits into the carrier, practice ahead of time so this can be accomplished easily. It's good for you to know how to do it & also to get your rabbits comfortable with being put into a carrier.

Second best is cardboard carriers. They don't have enough room for living out of, but they will transport your rabbits safely. They fold flat so are easy to store. If you have multiple rabbits, you might not have storage room for enough carriers.

Third best is heavy duty tote bags or duffle bags with a zippered top, flat bottom & handles. Be sure your bun fits inside. Put a small blanket or pee pad in the bottom.

Fourth best is pillow cases. Be sure the seams are intact & they have no holes. If they have holes, that gives rabbits a starting place for chewing. Be sure you have a way of closing them. Here are options for closing the pillow cases (in order of preference). 1) Velcro zip ties (hook & loop cable wraps), ones that are straps with a slit in one end so the free end can be fed through

the slit, tightened & then wrapped around a few times. 2) Releasable zip ties (once tightened, then can be opened again). These are hard to find. 3) Garden ties that act like releasable zip ties, in that they can be opened & closed as will. 4) Rope with a loop tied in one end. Then the free end can be inserted into the loop & tightened around the pillow case & tied off to secure it. 5) Binder clips.

If using pillow cases, be sure to open them frequently so you can check on your rabbits & give them fresh air, water, food, etc. It's handy to have a small tote like a reusable grocery bag that you can put your pillow case (with rabbit) into, so you can use the handles.

In extreme cases, where evacuation is by helicopter or boat, they MAY NOT allow you to bring a carrier but MAY allow you to bring a pillow case. Also, your destination may not have room for carriers but might have room for pillow cases.

Even if you have enough regular carriers, it's a good idea to have alternative carriers (listed above) at home or in your car. This is in case your carrier breaks & in order to help a neighbor or a shelter that is evacuating animals or to pick up strays that you find running around (that have escaped their homes).

Even if you don't usually use a harness & leash, it's good to have one in your Go Kit. If you don't have time to grab your carrier, you'll still have the harness/leash. If you end up in a place with no room for the carrier, it can come in handy. Make sure it fits ahead of time.

Your rabbits might be injured in the disaster or during transport. Also, they might be stressed & get sick. Thus, you should have a rabbit first aid kit. See

http://curiousbunny.com/first_aid_kit.pdf .

In cold weather it's good to have something that will keep your rabbits warm, like a warming disk or bottle for hot water. In cold weather something to cool off your rabbits would be good, like a spray bottle with water.

While you may not need to groom your rabbits during a disaster, it might be therapeutic for both you & your rabbits to groom them & spend time together. If you have grooming tools, you will also be able to groom other rabbits. It's always nice to be able to help others.

Items like clothes, with your scent on them, or items like blankets & beds, with your rabbit's scent on them, help to comfort your rabbits. Favorite toys can also help.

You don't know where you will be staying & the water source may be difficult to reach. So it's handy to have a gallon water jug so you can keep water near your rabbits. Be sure it has a screw on lid, as a snap on lid can easily come off. Don't use an old milk or soda jug. Use only an old water jug. If you keep water in your supplies, you will have to rotate it regularly. So you could just keep an empty water jug in your Go Kit & assume you'll be able to get water

somewhere. Or if you have a few extra minutes during evacuation, you could fill it just before you leave.

If you have a Window Sticker on your window (see Window Sticker), put a note on your Grab List to remove it if you evacuate with your rabbits. You could replace the Window Sticker with a note that says, "No animals here" & date it. That way, rescue workers (& neighbors who know you have rabbits) will not waste time looking for your rabbits.

Put all medicine & paperwork in waterproof zipable bags.

Even on a short trip to the vet, there could be a massive traffic jam or your car might breakdown. To keep healthy, rabbits eat & drink very frequently. Keep a Mini Go Kit with you when you travel. This will have food, water & bowls.

Info List

For the Info List, gather the following information.

Many places now have a vaccine for the Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus 2 (RHDV2). If the virus is in your area, get your rabbits vaccinated. Keep a copy of the vaccination record in your Info List. When the virus is in the local area, some places will only board rabbits if they have had the vaccination.

Arrange to have a friend make medical decisions about your rabbits, in case you cannot be contacted. Be sure your vet has the proper paperwork for this. Or keep signed paperwork in your Go Kit in case your friend has to go to a different vet.

In all the commotion, your rabbits might get lost. Have current pictures of your rabbits to aid in finding them. Also include pictures of yourself with your rabbits to prove ownership. Take pictures from many angles & be sure to show distinguishing marks or lack thereof. Have a physical description of your rabbits. Include breed, weight, distinguishing characteristics, coloring, age (birthdate), sex, microchip # & health concerns.

Some shelters require these pictures/descriptions to return rabbits back to you. Update regularly if rabbits are young. Make multiple copies of the pictures/descriptions. Make a "Pet Lost" poster with your phone #(s), (primary might not work in disaster) pictures & description of your rabbits. Leave blanks to fill in later for last seen, other phone #(s).

If you are sheltering in place & have no electricity, your greens may spoil quickly. One way around this is to know what greens you can pick from your garden that are rabbit safe. Be sure to know what is safe for your rabbits before the disaster strikes. Don't guess. Many common plants are poisonous to rabbits. You could even plant rabbit safe plants ahead of time, just in case. Besides, it's fun to pick fresh greens for your rabbits, even when there is no disaster.

In a disaster, your rabbits might get into an area where they shouldn't be & end up eating something poisonous. Having the phone # of an animal poison control center seems like a good idea, but the reviews on the web of several of them are horrible. Mainly long hold times (e.g., an hour). So better to contact your vet ahead of time & ask who you should call if you think your rabbit is poisoned.

You'll be gathering contact info (name, address, phone #) for many places (vets, rabbit friendly hotels, etc.). Getting this info for places near your home is a good start. But in a disaster, sometimes local places are closed. So you should also get this info for places that are a bit farther away. And finally, get the info for places that are quite far away. You never know how widespread the disaster will be. In the descriptions, getting the info for different distances from your home is abbreviated as "near & far".

List contact info for your vet. Also for other rabbit savvy vets (in case your vet is not available). Also for vets that take emergencies (no appointment and/or after hours). Need info for several emergency vet offices since they might say they have an emergency rabbit savvy vet, but they might not have them at all times. Get hours each vet/emergency service operates, including vets near & far. Be sure to get phone numbers that are answered 24 hours/day.

List where the medicine for your rabbits was purchased so refills can be obtained.

You might have to stay in a hotel but not all of them take rabbits, so get a list of rabbit friendly hotels. If they say they won't accept rabbits, ask if they will make an exception in times of disaster. Get info for hotels near & far.

Here is a list of pet friendly hotels. There might be restrictions so be sure to ask about rabbits specifically.

https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/make-disaster-plan-your-pets?credit=web_id93480558

Check with your local animal shelter(s) to see if they will take your rabbits if there is a natural disaster. Ask how long they will care for your rabbits, if you can bring your own food, toys, medicines, etc. Ask about visitation rules. Get a 24 hour phone #. Get info for animal shelters near & far.

Gather similar information for other facilities (near & far) that might be able to house rabbits. For example, boarding facilities, grooming shops, vets, rabbit rescue groups, pet sitters & pet stores.

If your rabbits are lost, they may end up in an animal shelter. Keep a list of all animal shelters in your area so you can easily contact all of them. It's best to PHYSICALLY check the animal shelters DAILY. Also check animal control facilities, boarding facilities, vets, & rabbit rescue groups.

If you can't get home for the evening, you'll need contact info for someone who can care for your rabbits in your home (see Wallet List).

Ask friends ahead of time if they could take your rabbits while you stay in a shelter. Be sure they have a safe, quiet place away from their pets & small children. If you have more than 1 rabbit, you might have to split them up among your friends. See if they can take just your rabbits, just you, or both.

In case you are away from home during a disaster, plan ahead to have a close neighbor (or your pet sitter) evacuate your rabbits. This person must be comfortable putting your rabbits into carriers. Be sure that person knows where your Go Kit is & to also take the items on the Grab List & to read the Info List & Pet Sitter List. That person also needs access to your house (see Wallet List). Best to have several people who are near & far.

With all the commotion, your rabbits might have issues you have not seen before. Keep a list of people knowledgeable about rabbits that might be able to answer your questions or concerns. Your rabbit caretaker could also use them.

Go Kit, Grab List, Info List Summary

Go Kit

(optionally move some items from the Grab List to this list)

Grab List right on top

all other Lists

food bowl (opt. collapsible)

water bowl (opt. collapsible) or bottle (with wire to connect to cage)

toys

pillow cases, closures, totes (e.g., fabric grocery bag)

blanket for inside carrier & to cover carrier (plus extra)

blanket for your lap (plus extra)

sheet for exercise pen (plus extra)

warming disk

spray bottle for cooling (store with water or empty)

tape (to mark items)

marker pen

harness, leash

trash bags to collect waste

liquid dish soap

disinfectant in spray bottle for cleaning carrier, litter box & bowls

(e.g., vinegar, bleach, Rescue Solution)

paper towels

baby wipes, unscented (even if usually don't use them; might have poopy butt in disaster)

pee pads
Mini Go Kit; food, water, bowls

Grab List

(also specify where each item is located)

carriers
food pellets (3-7 days to 2 months worth)
hay (3-7 days to 2 months worth)
treats (3-7 days to 2 months worth)
greens
gallon water jug (keep filled or fill just before evacuation, or take empty jug)
(3-7 days worth)
medicine (3-7 days to 2 months worth)
bag of litter or newspapers (3-7 days to 2 months worth)
litter box (could be disposable)
scoop for litter box
exercise pen (metal xpen or foldable fabric popup pen)
hidey box
rabbit first aid kit
grooming tools
ice chest for greens & meds
ice packs or ice
wheels (2 or 4 wheeled dolly, wagon, etc.)
note to remove Window Sticker from window
& replace with "no animals here" <date>

Info List

rabbits' names
copy of prescriptions
copy of vaccination records (might be required at the shelter)
copy of medical records (to show rabbits are healthy, or to show medical issues)
signed document allowing friend to make medical decisions for your rabbits
pictures & description of your rabbits (also with you in picture)
names of rabbit safe greens in the garden
ask your vet who you should call if your rabbit is poisoned

name/address/phone number of:
yourself
your vet 24 hr #
rabbit savvy vets (in case yours is busy) (near & far) 24 hr #
rabbit savvy vets that take emergencies (near & far) 24 hr #

where medicine was purchased (for refills)
chip registration company & chip #
your pet insurance company
rabbit friendly hotels (near & far)
animal shelters, boarding facilities, grooming shops, vets, rabbit rescue groups,
pet sitters (their home or yours), pet stores
that take rabbits in case of disaster (near & far) 24 hr #
all animal shelters in your area (to find lost rabbits)
people who could care for your rabbits in your home (near & far)
people who could care for your rabbits in their home (near & far)
people who could allow you & your rabbits to stay in their home (near & far)
people who can evacuate your rabbits if you are not home (near & far)
people who are rabbit knowledgeable (in case you or caretaker have questions)
people who are out of the area who can give info about your rabbits
(in case you have no cell service)
(give that person the Pet Sitter List)
people who are out of the area who can take messages for you
(in case you have no cell service)
people or rabbit rescue groups who can take your rabbits if you pass away

Other Info

Pet Sitter List

This list is for when the pet sitter comes to your house. If your rabbits go to the pet sitter's house, you only need a subset of the following, but might as well make the complete list, as you never know what will happen in a disaster.

Label all the containers so your rabbit caretaker won't have to figure out what's what. Don't just label with, "Fluffy's food". If you have other types of animals, this might be confusing. Instead label with, "Fluffy (brown rabbit's) food". You don't want your caretaker to mix up the rabbit & guinea pig food. Also, don't want to mix up the cat & rabbit litter material, or the rabbit litter pellets with the food pellets.

Pet Sitter List contains:

location of Info List

feeding/treats/meds schedule

when, what & how many food pellets/greens/treats/medicine

water at all times (specify bowl or bottle); how to refill

how to interact with rabbits; do/don't pickup, pet, sit with, etc.

health (including allergies) & behavior comments

when & how to clean up

how to do laundry for rabbit items

where all the food & equipment is that will be needed (label everything)

Wallet List

If you are away from home & get into an accident & you are unconscious & end up being away overnight or longer, your rabbits will need someone to care for them. In this scenario, first responders often look through your wallet for emergency instructions. Or, if you are conscious but in the hospital, you can consult the list to call the person that can care for your rabbits. You can also consult the list if you can't get home because a disaster has closed the roads.

In your wallet, have a card that has the following. Or, if you already have an emergency card in your wallet, include this info at the very top.

your name

name/phone of person to call to care for your rabbits in emergency (near & far)

Example wording:

MY RABBITS ARE HOME ALONE. Please call Auntie May, phone number ###, & tell her to take care of my rabbits

Be sure that person knows how to care for your rabbits & knows where the Pet Sitter List is.

Have one or more people near your home (neighbors) & also one or more people out of the area. If there is a disaster near your home, neighbors might be too busy with their own problems to care for your rabbits.

Your rabbit caretaker will need to be able to get into your house. Give a house key to that person. Or, hide the key on your property. If you're concerned about someone finding your key, talk with a trusted neighbor & ask if you can hide the key on their property (& do the same for them). Hiding the key will help if your primary rabbit caretaker is not available. That way, you could call a different person & tell that person where the key is & where the Pet Sitter List is.

Window Sticker

If there is a disaster & you can't get home & your pre-arranged rabbit caretakers can't help out, first responders might be able to help. They will sometimes go door to door to look for pets who need care. Before disaster strikes, put a window sticker in a window near your front door to let them know there are pets inside. On the sticker show:

In Emergency, <X> rabbits live here

They are in <specify where>

Carriers are in <specify where>

Care instructions are in <specify where>

Vet is <name> <phone #>

My cell # is <phone #>

don't include this if you are concerned about privacy

Be sure your vet can take in your rabbits.

Where to Shelter Your Rabbits

where to shelter with you: *****

hotels that allow rabbits

shelter for humans & pets (setup for the disaster)

where to shelter with or without you: *****

family and friends

where to shelter without you: *****

animal shelters and humane societies

boarding facilities

grooming shops

vets with boarding facilities

rabbit rescue groups

pet sitter

pet stores

fairgrounds or parks setup for the disaster

Microchip ID Information

You never know when a disaster will strike. Your rabbits might get lost at any time & especially during an evacuation. Microchips are a great way to help reunite you with your rabbits. Get your rabbits microchipped now. Be sure to also register your chip so the agency has up to date contact info. Include all your phone numbers & also phone numbers of friends who are out of the area that could help. You need out of area contact info since in a disaster, there might not be any cell service or the networks might be so swamped calls can't get through. If your vet does the registration for you, be sure you know how to update the info. Ahead of time, contact the registration company to find out what you should do if your rabbits are lost. Ask them what they do to help find your rabbits. With this information, if your rabbit is lost, you'll know how to contact the registration company & know what data they need.

Once a year, check with the registration company to make sure your info is up to date, they are still in business & they have not cancelled your account. Check the following website to make sure your chip # still shows up under the correct registration company & that it is registered under only one company:

<https://www.aaha.org/petmicrochiplookup>

If you have to evacuate or if a disaster is imminent, write your cell # in the ear of your rabbits. In the other ear, write the cell # of a friend (who has agreed to help) who is out of the area. You can also use nail polish to write your initials in an ear, for identification.

Why put cell # in ear if have microchip:

finder might not know about chips

finder might not have the time to go to vet to get chip read

finder might not have transportation to go to a vet, especially after major disaster

finder might not know how to get a chip read

finder might not know where a vet is

finder might not have carrier so can't transport animal

if there's a major disaster, might not have any vets that are open

roads might be impassible so can't go to vet

vet might not have reader that can read that type of chip

chip can't be found or data is out of date

chip registered with multiple agencies & one is out of date

Your Will

Consider who will care for your rabbits when you pass away. Do this even if you live with a family, as the unthinkable might happen & all might perish at once. Discuss this with close friends. It's best if you can find someone who will take in your rabbits. If you cannot find anyone, discuss it with a trusted rabbit rescue group. Be sure to leave enough money to care for your rabbits. Consider not only food & annual vet visits, but also major medical bills that may be needed when your rabbits gets older. Put their contact info on your Info List.

Even if you don't have a formal will, put this information in writing & make it available to the parties involved.

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