

## Caring for Pets

- ◆ Check your pets for injuries, and treat minor injuries with your home first-aid kit.
- ◆ Make sure your pets have ample food and water and are contained in a safe area.
- ◆ Your home may be a very different place after a disaster, whether you have taken shelter at home or elsewhere. Don't allow your pets to roam loose. Familiar landmarks and smells might be gone, and your pet will probably be disoriented. Pets can easily get lost.
- ◆ While you assess the damage, keep dogs on leashes and cats in carriers inside the house. If your house is damaged, they could escape and become lost.
- ◆ Be sure pets are wearing collars with tags that have your name, address, and cell phone number (in case land phone lines are not working).
- ◆ Be patient with your pets after a disaster. Try to get them back into their normal routine as soon as possible, and don't be surprised if they have behavioral problems as a result of the stressful situation. As soon as possible after the disaster, have your pets examined by a veterinarian. Discuss with the veterinarian any behavioral problems that persist.
- ◆ To look for lost and found pets, call your local animal shelter. Also register at [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com).
- ◆ To report an animal needing rescue, call your county's emergency management department.

