

# The University of Alabama

## Pet Emergency Plan

### Overview:

The purpose of this Pet Emergency Plan is to aid pet owners in ensuring their pet's safety in the event of an emergency.

### Before an emergency:

- Have multiple ways to stay informed (UA Alerts, UA Safety App, NOAA Weather Radio, etc.).
  - Update your contact information in myBama.
- Create an emergency kit for your pet that includes important documents, medications, water, food, and any other essential items. These items can also be added to your personal emergency kit.
- Be sure your pet wears a collar with tags that show ownership via identifiable information (i.e. pet's name, owner's address, owner's recent contact information).
- Have pets microchipped and keep the microchip contact information updated.
- Consider obtaining a rescue alert sticker from the [ASPCA](#) or a local pet store. Place the sticker on your home in a visible location (i.e. on or near front door) so that rescuers know how many pets reside there.
- Ensure you have the necessary equipment to transport pets (i.e. leash, crate, carrier).
- Create a backup plan for your pet's safety in case you are away during severe weather or an emergency (i.e. a trusted neighbor, friend, or family member).
- Identify a safe place for you and your pet to go if evacuation is necessary. Not all shelters accept animals unless they are a registered service animal.
  - Find a veterinarian/animal hospital in your evacuation location and have the contact information accessible.
  - Practice evacuating with your pet so that any changes to the plan can be made in advance.

### During an emergency:

Have multiple ways to stay informed. UA notifies the campus community using the following methods:

- [UA Alerts](#)
- [UA Safety App](#)
- X (formerly Twitter): @UA\_Safety
- Campus PA system
- Digital signage
- Crimson Ride bus marquees
- UA home page alert
- Announcements on local radio and TV stations

**If you need to shelter with your pet during a tornado watch or warning,**

- If you must leave your home to seek shelter, know where the closest community shelter is that allows pets. Leave enough time to safely travel to the shelter and unload pet/supplies.
- The Magnolia Parking Deck BARA is the designated pet shelter on campus. It is located on the west side of the lowest level of the parking deck. Gates are open during a tornado watch.



- Be familiar with the following rules for sheltering on campus with pets:  
If space is available, the pet may shelter with its owner under the following conditions:
  1. Pet owners must be present with their animal.
  2. Pets must be under the complete control of the owner at all times.
  3. Only domestic animals are permitted.
  4. Animals over 140lbs are not permitted.
  5. Reptiles, fish and insects are not permitted.
  6. Dogs should be in a crate or leashed and muzzled. All other animals must be in a crate.
  7. Animals will be excluded from the shelter if they exhibit dangerous or disruptive behavior or are otherwise believed to present a hazard.
  8. Pet owners should bring a bowl for water.
  9. Pet owners must clean up after their pet.
  10. Animals should be vaccinated as appropriate.

For safety reasons, those persons violating these rules may be asked to leave.

When a shelter is opened for a tornado watch or warning, University officials operate and staff the shelter. For your safety and the safety of others, please follow the guidance of these officials while you are in the shelter.

*All service dogs accompanying individuals with disabilities are welcomed in all campus shelters.* If the owner is unable because of a disability to use a muzzle, harness, leash, or other tether for his/her service dog, or if the use of a muzzle, harness, leash or other tether would interfere with the service dog's performance of work or tasks, then the service dog must be otherwise under the owner's control (e.g., voice commands, signals, or other effective means).

**If you need to shelter in place with your pet:**

Sheltering in place means that instead of leaving a building, people should remain inside. Persons outside should seek shelter inside for safety. When sheltering in place, take pets into your home's identified safe place with you.

**Guidelines**

- Seek an interior room without windows. Consider location with water and/or bathroom facilities.
- Close all windows and doors.
- Remove any unsafe items from the area (tools, toxic materials, etc.).
- Bring pets indoors as soon as you are aware of unsafe conditions.
- Avoid sheltering in automobiles.
- Maintain a personal [disaster supply kit](#) and a pet disaster supply kit. Store both in your designated safe place in advance.
- Stay informed during the emergency by following local media, UA Alerts, etc.
- Remain in the shelter until officials advise it is safe to leave.

**If you need to evacuate with your pet,**

- Do your best to not leave pets behind. If you are told to evacuate for your safety, then that is also the best option for your pet. Never leave your pet chained outside during severe weather.
- Evacuate early. Don't wait until the conditions are severe. Evacuating with a pet can take extra time.
- Take precautions to keep you and your pet as healthy as possible during an emergency (wash hands regularly, keep your pet on a leash or in a crate, refrain from allowing pet to have contact with other animals, etc.).

**After an Emergency:**

- When returning home after an emergency, check for any debris or materials that could be harmful to your pet.
- If pet shows signs of illness or heightened stress/discomfort, notify your veterinarian.
- If your pet is lost after an emergency, consider contacting your veterinarian, local shelters, animal control, and microchip company if applicable.

**On-Campus Resources:****[Magnolia Parking Deck Best Available Refuge Area \(BARA\)](#)**

The Magnolia Parking Deck BARA is the designated pet shelter on campus. It is located on the west side of the lowest level of the parking deck. Gates are open during a tornado watch. This BARA accepts pets with their owners.

**[The University of Alabama Animal Control and Assistance Animal Policy](#)** The Office of Disability Services has posted guidelines for assistance animals.

**[Sheltering with Pets on Campus during a Tornado Watch/Warning](#)****Off-Campus Resources:**

If you are located off-campus during an emergency, it is essential that you know what resources are available to you and your pets.

Pet-friendly Tuscaloosa County shelter:

- [Carroll's Creek VFD Shelter](#) located at 11580 Lary Lake Road Northport, AL 35475 (shelter located behind VFD Station No. 1)

Animal Shelters

- [Tuscaloosa Metro Animal Shelter](#) (205) 752-9101, located at 3140 35th St. Tuscaloosa, AL 35401
- [Humane Society of West Alabama](#) (205) 554-0011, located at 2430 36th St. Northport, AL 35473

Animal Control:

- City of Tuscaloosa – (205) 248-5840
- City of Northport – (205) 339-6600

**For more information about keeping your pets safe during an emergency, visit these additional resources:**

- [Ready.gov – Pets and Animals](#)
- [ASPCA – Disaster Preparedness](#)
- [Ready Alabama – Ready Pets](#)