

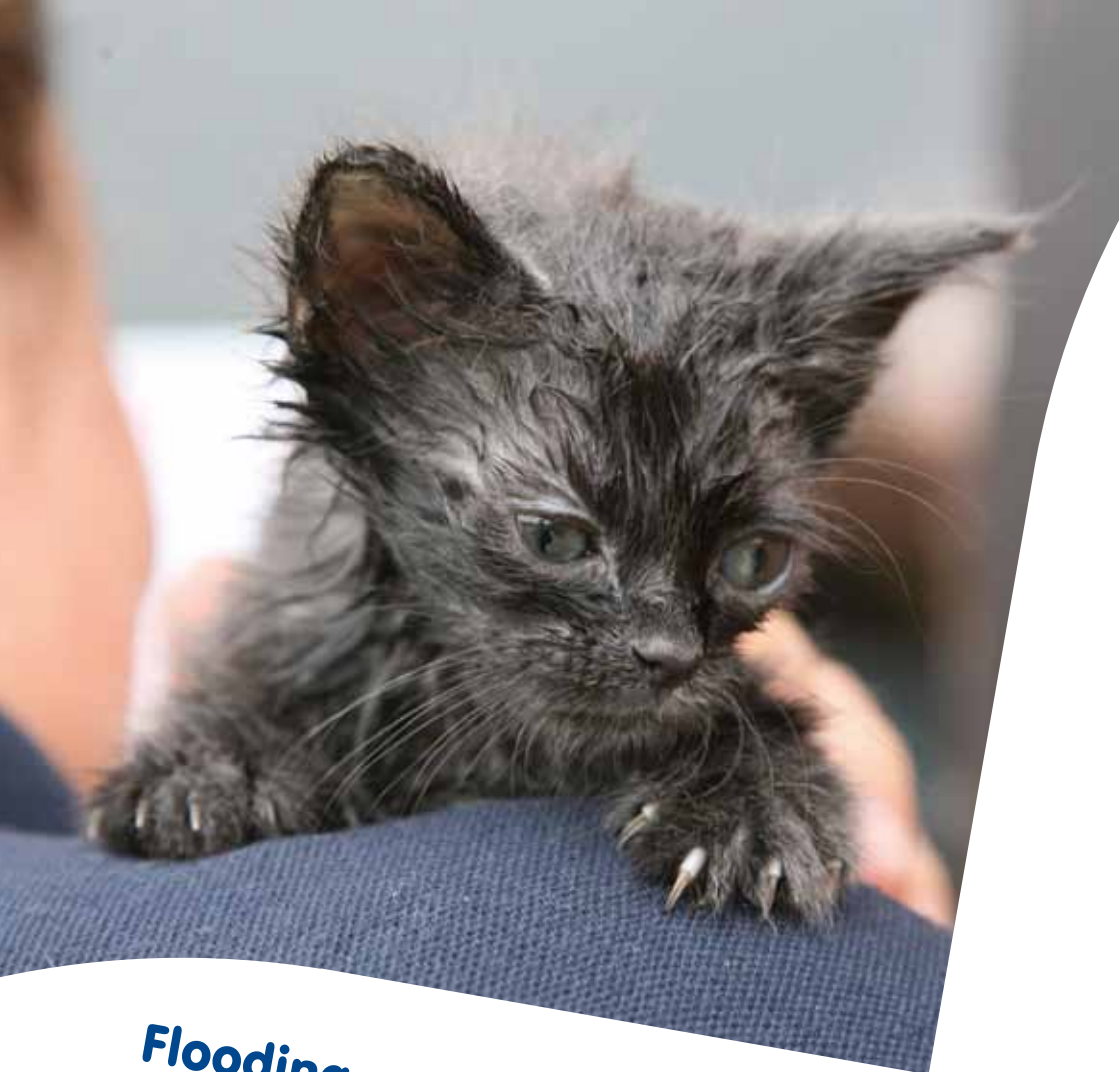
PET ADVICE 2

Flooding and pets



BLUE FOR
PETS
CROSS

The charity dedicated to helping sick, injured and homeless pets since 1897.



Flooding and pets

When you're coping with the nightmare of a flood, the last thing you need to deal with is the loss of, or injury to, a much-loved pet. Just like with your family and home, the best way to protect your pets is by being prepared.

Did you know that less than one in 20 people plan ahead to minimise the potential damage and heartache caused by flooding, according to the Environment Agency?

Your pets rely on you for their protection and, if your home does get flooded and you have to evacuate, they'll need you to make sure that they're safe. But, please don't forget, you should never put your own or anyone else's life in danger to save an animal. Here are some tips to help you prepare for, and cope during, a flood:

Be prepared

- Some human shelters don't allow animals so ring your local authority to check its policy.
 - Make sure your cats and dogs are wearing proper identification. We recommend that all cats and dogs have both a microchip and an identity tag, with up to date contact details, on their collar – the latter is a legal requirement for dogs.
 - Make sure food and medicines are well-stocked.
 - Arrange for a trusted neighbour to take in your pets if you're away from home when an evacuation order comes.
 - Work out an escape route and decide if you need extra gates for emergency access to horses and other animals in fields.
- If you're planning to board your pets while you're on holiday, check that the kennels you use are not liable to flooding. Ask them for information on their emergency procedures.
 - Stay updated. Listen for warnings on local TV and radio or call Floodline on 0845 988 1188 for information on your area 24 hours a day.

If there's a flood warning

- Bring your small pets inside and, if possible, take them upstairs.
- Move food, bedding and fresh water to somewhere safe and dry.
- Keep your portable pet carriers at hand.
- Keep familiar toys dry, because pets under stress will welcome something that smells of home.
- Think about taking pets to a family member or friend who lives outside the flood risk area.



- Put documents like vaccination records, your vet's details, and your pet's microchip number in a sealed bag with any other important documents. Include a current photograph in case your pet gets lost.
- Move horses to high ground.
- Keep tack and rugs off the floor.
- Put your contact details on field/stable gates so you can be contacted in an emergency.

If disaster strikes

- Don't leave pets behind, even if you think you've created a safe place for them. It could be several days before you can return home.
- Cats, rabbits and other small pets should be transported in suitable carriers, birds in a secure cage and dogs using sturdy leads.
- In cold weather put a blanket over the carrier. Don't put water inside the carrier during transportation.
- Remember to take your pet's food, water, bowls and bedding with you.
- If you have no choice but to leave your pets behind, shut them inside an upstairs room with plenty of food and water. Put notices on external doors saying there are animals inside and contact the RSPCA or your local flood warden immediately.





Find out about flood warnings

Phone Floodline on **0845 988 1188** to find out which flood warning services are available in your area. These include:

- **Floodline Warnings Direct**
Receive free warnings by phone, text or email.
- **Media**
TV and radio weather reports give information on flood warnings.
- **Flood wardens**
Some areas have volunteers who issue warnings door to door.
- **Internet**
Visit www.environment-agency.gov.uk for local flood warning summaries.

Flood warning codes



Severe Flood Warning

Severe flooding. Danger to life.



Flood Warning

Flooding is expected. Immediate action required.



Flood Alert

Flooding is possible. Be prepared.

Warning no longer in force

Flood warnings and flood alerts that have been removed in the last 24 hours.

Happy, healthy pets

Blue Cross advice leaflets are packed full of top tips to help owners with their pet questions. They cover a wide range of topics, from training a puppy to caring for an older cat. So if you need some support to help you with a pet problem, whether it's about a dog or a degu, we're here for you.

You can read and download our leaflets online at www.bluecross.org.uk

Visit our website to take advantage of all its features, including:

- blog posts from Blue Cross experts
- latest news
- events near you
- pets needing new homes

Or you can join in the chat on our online communities. Find us on Twitter and Facebook – just search for Blue Cross.

Blue Cross

Blue Cross has been dedicated to the health and happiness of pets since 1897. Abandoned or unwanted, ill or injured – we do what's needed to give every pet a healthy life in a happy home. We're a charity, so the more help you give us, the more help we can give pets.

How you can help

Blue Cross doesn't receive any government funding, so we rely on the generosity of pet lovers like you. There are lots of ways you can help the sick, injured and abandoned pets in our care, like making a donation, fundraising for us or leaving us a legacy.

Please call us on 0300 777 1897 or visit www.bluecross.org.uk



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