



## Iowa Department of Public Health

### **Keeping Pets Safe and Healthy After a Flood**

*This information was provided by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship*

- Pets can be allowed outside on ground that was previously covered by flood water after 24 to 48 hours of drying.
- Survey the area inside and outside your home for sharp objects, dangerous materials, wildlife, contaminated water, downed power lines, or other hazards.
  - Ensure that all debris and waste is collected and properly disposed of off your property prior to releasing pets to the inside and outside of your home.
- Initially release cats, dogs, and other small animals indoors only.
  - Birds and reptiles should only be released if necessary and only when they are calm and in an enclosed room.
- Be aware that familiar scents and landmarks may have changed, and this can confuse your animals.
- Reintroduce food in small servings, gradually working up to full portions if animals have been without food for a prolonged period of time.
- Allow uninterrupted rest/sleep for all animals to recover from the trauma and stress.
- Use licensed boarding facilities or animal shelters for animal care while you prepare your home and property for your pets' return.
- Periodically examine your animals and contact your veterinarian immediately if you observe injuries or signs of illness.
- Visit the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship web site at [www.iowaagriculture.gov](http://www.iowaagriculture.gov).

