



## LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

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Produced under a cooperative  
agreement with the United States  
Department of Agriculture.

## COHABITATED HUMAN/PET SHELTERING GUIDE

Cohabitated sheltering is an essential life saving measure to support people with pets who need sheltering during disasters.



Cohabitated means that people and their pets are sheltered together in the same area.

### COHABITATED SHELTER COORDINATION CONTACT CHECKLIST:

#### **Contact community Emergency Management.**

#### **Contact community Animal Control.**

May provide Subject Matter Experts who can assist with abandoned, aggressive and/or quarantine animals involved in human bite cases.

#### **Contact Sheriff or local Law Enforcement.**

Security, Traffic, Inmate labor (pet cage set up, daily cleaning of shelter, etc.)

#### **Contact local Fire Department.**

May provide Safety Officer who can assist with human space requirements, safety and Paramedics, etc.

#### **Contact local and State Veterinarian.**

May provide veterinary care for sheltered pets. Advise the public health veterinarian that there is a shelter in the community. Ask for help and volunteers.

#### **Contact community agencies and companies.**

May provide and support wrap around services.  
Public Health and Safety, VOAD, Local pet stores  
Agriculture and Animal Health, Ag Extension Service  
Local Humane Organizations

#### **Identify alternative pet shelter sites.**

Veterinary clinics, Animal Control, boarding facilities, arenas, and fairgrounds

# COHABITATED HUMAN/PET SHELTERING GUIDE

## SHELTER CHECKLIST

- ✓ Notify local Emergency Management of shelter location, shelter support and resources needed. (Public Health and Safety, veterinarian, animal control, and humane group)
- ✓ Establish pet rules and define which pet species are allowed to cohabitate with their owners.
- ✓ Establish area to shelter pets not allowed to cohabitate with their owners.
- ✓ Identify and appoint someone to support and provide oversight for pets, social media, donations and security.
- ✓ Identify and register people with pets.
- ✓ Inform people with pets that they are responsible for their pets.

## SHELTER CHECKLIST

- ✓ Separate people with pets from people without pets.
- ✓ Separate by species, sick, aggressive, non - rabies vaccinated pets from the human population and other pets.
- ✓ Designate a secure pet exercise/relief area with access to waste disposal, separate from general population traffic.
- ✓ Require all pets to remain leashed or crated at all times.
- ✓ Report all bite cases to local authorities (Animal Control, Public Health, and Law Enforcement).
- ✓ Prepare to transition to alternative forms of sheltering.

## National Resource Links

USDA <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/>

CDC <https://www.cdc.gov>

FEMA <https://www.fema.gov>

AVMA <https://www.avma.org>

VOAD <https://www.nvoad.org/>

RED CROSS [www.redcross.org/](http://www.redcross.org/)

NACA <http://www.nacenet.org/>

NARSC <http://thenarsc.org/>

## SHELTER RESOURCE LINKS

**[www.ldaf.state.la.us](http://www.ldaf.state.la.us)**  
*Animal Health and Food Safety*

*LSART Shelter Manual* [www.lsart.org](http://www.lsart.org)

## LOCAL RESOURCE LINKS