



An Extended Guide · No. 1830

Keeping Your Pets Safe in an Outage

Family has four legs, too

Tech Made Simple — Service Made Personal

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! Read this first — the real outage dangers are quiet ones

When the power goes out, most of the real danger doesn't come from the dark — it comes from how we try to get by without it. Every year people are harmed by carbon monoxide from a generator, grill, or camp stove brought indoors or into a garage, and by fires from candles and unvented heaters. So three rules run through this whole guide. First, never burn anything indoors that is meant for outdoors — no generator, grill, charcoal, or camp stove in the house, garage, or on a porch, not even with a window open. Second, reach for a flashlight or a battery lantern instead of a candle. Third, keep working smoke and carbon-monoxide alarms on every level, with battery backup, and never ignore one. If an alarm sounds, or anyone feels dizzy, sick, or sleepy, get everyone to fresh air first and call 911. Your pets share the same dangers you do — keep them away from generators, candles, and downed lines, and never leave them in a hot or cold car.

Let's keep your animals safe, too

Our pets are family, and an outage is confusing and stressful for them. A little planning keeps them fed, comfortable, calm, and safe right alongside the rest of the household.

I'm Bill, and I know how much folks around here love their animals. This guide makes sure your dog, cat, or other companion is part of your outage plan — with their own little kit, a plan for warmth or cooling, and a way to keep them calm when the storm has them rattled.

We'll cover a pet kit, food and water, staying comfortable, keeping them away from outage hazards, and what to do if you ever have to leave. For rural folks, we'll touch on livestock and outdoor animals, too.

★ Pets count in the plan

If you'd like help making sure your animals are covered in your outage plan, I'm glad to help. Call or text me at (330) 200-8042.

Your pet's plan, on one page

The essentials for keeping animals safe.

- ☐ Keep a few days of pet food and extra water on hand.
- ☐ Keep any pet medicines stocked, plus your vet's number.
- ☐ Have a leash, carrier, and current ID for each pet.
- ☐ Keep pets in the warm or cool room with the family.
- ☐ Keep them away from generators, candles, and downed lines.
- ☐ Never leave a pet in a hot or cold car.
- ☐ Have a recent photo in case a pet gets lost.
- ☐ Know a pet-friendly place to go if you must leave.

✓ **Pets feel the temperature, too**

Whatever you do to stay warm or cool, do for your pets — off the cold floor in winter, in the coolest spot with water in summer.

Put together a little pet kit

Just like the family kit, your pet's supplies belong together in one spot.

- A few days of their usual food, and a manual can opener for cans.
- Extra water, and a bowl for food and water.
- Any medicines, plus your vet's name and number.
- A leash, harness, and a carrier or crate.
- Waste bags, litter and a pan, or pads as needed.
- A favorite toy or blanket for comfort.
- Copies of vaccination and medical records.

Keep it near the family kit so grabbing everything is easy if you have to move fast. A pet who has their own familiar food, bed, and toy settles far more easily in a stressful time.

✓ Their own food avoids upset tummies

Stock your pet's regular food rather than switching brands in an outage — a sudden diet change can upset their stomach right when you least want it.

Food and water for your pets

Pets need their own stored supply, right alongside yours.

Keep several days of your pet's usual food, stored where it stays fresh and pest-free, and remember a manual can opener if you feed canned food. Store extra water for them — animals need more in heat, just like we do — and keep their bowls with the kit.

On a well, remember the pump is down in an outage, so your pets' water comes from your stored supply too. Factor them into how much water you keep, as our water guide describes.

✓ Count pets in your water math

When you figure how much water to store, add your animals' daily needs. A thirsty pet in a hot outage can go through more than you'd expect.

Keeping pets warm in a winter outage

Your animals feel the cold, and belong in the warm room with you.

Bring pets into the one warm room, and give them a bed or folded blanket to keep them off the cold floor, where a lot of heat is lost. Small pets, short-haired dogs, and older animals chill quickly. Keep their water from freezing, and never leave a pet outside in bitter cold during an outage.

✓ A blanket off the cold floor

A pet bed or thick folded blanket keeps an animal off the chilly floor and much warmer. They'll happily curl up wherever the people gather.

Keeping pets cool in a summer outage

Pets overheat faster than we do, so a hot outage needs a cooling plan for them.

Keep pets in the coolest part of the house with plenty of cool water, and never leave them in a hot car or a sun-baked room — a car heats to deadly levels in minutes. Watch for heavy panting, drooling, weakness, or collapse, which can signal overheating. A damp towel to lie on and good airflow help.

! Never leave a pet in a hot car

Even a few minutes in a parked car can be fatal to a pet in summer heat, windows cracked or not. If you go somewhere cool, bring them along or leave them somewhere safe and cool.

Keeping frightened pets calm

Storms and outages frighten many animals — a little comfort goes a long way.

Thunder, wind, and the strangeness of a dark, quiet house can rattle pets. Keep them close, speak calmly, and give them a familiar bed, toy, or blanket. A quiet, enclosed safe space — a crate with a blanket over it, or a small room — helps an anxious animal feel secure. Keep dogs leashed and cats secured so a scared pet can't bolt.

✓ A covered crate is a cozy den

For a frightened pet, a crate with a blanket draped over it makes a calming little den. Many animals settle right down in that safe, dark space.

ID and a recent photo

Storms are a common time for pets to get lost — make sure yours can find their way home.

Keep current ID tags on collars, and make sure any microchip is registered with your up-to-date contact information. Keep a recent photo of each pet in your kit or on your phone — if a frightened animal slips out during the chaos of a storm, a clear photo and good ID make a reunion far more likely.

✓ Check the microchip info is current

A microchip only helps if its contact information is up to date. It's worth confirming yours is current — pets do get lost in storms.

Pet medicines and health needs

If your pet takes medicine, plan for it just as you would your own.

Keep a few days' supply of any pet medicine, note whether it needs refrigeration and plan a cooler if so, and keep your vet's number and your pet's records handy. If your pet has a chronic condition, ask your vet how to handle an extended outage. Knowing an emergency vet's location ahead of time is wise, too.

★ Vet questions go to the vet

I can help you organize your pet's supplies and records, but for medical questions your veterinarian is the guide. For the practical side, call (330) 200-8042.

Two kinds of homes, two sets of needs

Pet planning is much the same everywhere, but country homes often have more animals — and livestock — to think about.

If you live in town or the suburbs

In town, you're usually planning for house pets, and help like a vet or a pet-friendly shelter is close by.

- A few days of food, water, and comfort covers most house pets.
- A vet and pet supplies are usually a short trip away.
- Shorter outages are easier on anxious animals.
- Keep a carrier and leash ready in case you need to leave.

If you are out in the country on a well

In the country, you may have more animals, outdoor pets, or livestock — and the well pump that waters them is down in an outage.

- Store more water — livestock and outdoor animals drink a lot.
- Have a plan to water and shelter animals when the pump is off.
- Keep more feed on hand, since a supply run is a longer trip.
- Know how you'd keep barns and coops safe in heat or cold.

★ Let's cover all your animals

House pets or a small menagerie, I'll help you make sure every animal is part of the plan. Call (330) 200-8042.

If you have to leave with your pets

Never leave pets behind — if it's not safe for you, it's not safe for them.

If you need to relocate, take your pets and their kit. Have a carrier or leash for each, bring their food, water, medicines, and records, and know ahead of time where you can go — not every shelter takes animals, so plan for a pet-friendly option, a relative's, or a boarding place. A little planning avoids a hard choice in the moment.

✓ Know your pet-friendly options

Line up in advance where you'd take your animals — a pet-friendly shelter, a relative, or a kennel. Knowing before a storm means you'll never have to choose between leaving and your pet.

Keeping pets away from outage hazards

The same dangers that threaten you can harm a curious animal.

- Keep pets well away from a running generator — hot, loud, and CO.
- Never leave a candle where a pet could knock it over.
- Keep pets far from any downed power lines outside.
- Watch that pets don't get into spoiled food or spilled fuel.
- Keep space heaters and cords out of a pet's reach.

! A generator is no place for a curious pet

Keep animals far from a running generator — it's hot, loud, and gives off carbon monoxide. Set it up outside and well away, with pets kept indoors or securely apart from it.

Birds, reptiles, and other small pets

Some pets are especially sensitive to temperature and need extra thought.

Birds, reptiles, and fish often depend on powered heaters, lamps, or filters, and can suffer quickly when those go out. Plan how you'll keep their environment warm or cool enough — moving a tank to the warmest or coolest room, insulating it, or using safe warmers. Ask an exotic-pet vet or your supplier for guidance specific to your animal.

! Heat lamps need power — have a backup plan

A reptile's heat lamp or a fish tank's heater stops in an outage. For temperature-sensitive pets, plan ahead how you'll keep them in a safe range — their needs can be urgent.

Make a pet information card

One little card helps anyone care for your pet in a pinch.

Write down each pet's name, description, feeding routine, medicines, microchip number, your vet's contact, and any special needs or behaviors. Keep it with the pet kit. If someone else ever has to look after your animal — a neighbor, a shelter, family — this card tells them everything they need to know.

✓ Include feeding and quirks

Note not just the medical facts but the everyday ones — how much they eat, whether they're shy of strangers, where they hide. It helps anyone step in kindly.

Comfort and routine keep pets steady

Animals take their cues from us and from their routines — keep both calm.

Try to feed and walk your pets on their usual schedule, keep your own manner calm and reassuring, and give them plenty of attention. Familiar routines and a soothing voice do a great deal to keep an animal settled through the strangeness of an outage. If you're calm, they're far more likely to be, too.

✓ Your calm is contagious

Pets read our tone and body language. Moving slowly, speaking gently, and keeping to their routine reassures them more than anything else.

Livestock and outdoor animals

For rural homes, animals outside the house need their own plan.

Livestock and outdoor animals depend on water that the well pump provides, so store or have a way to supply water when the power's out. Make sure shelters are sound against wind, cold, and heat, keep feed on hand, and check on animals often through a storm. Powered systems like waterers, fans, or heat lamps in barns and coops need a backup plan, which our generator and power guides can help with.

★ Rural animals count, too

If you keep livestock or outdoor animals, let's make sure their water, shelter, and any powered systems are part of your outage plan. Call (330) 200-8042.

Keeping your pet kit fresh

Like the rest of your supplies, the pet kit needs a check now and then.

- Rotate the stored pet food before it goes stale.
- Refresh stored water and check medicine dates.
- Make sure ID tags and microchip info are current.
- Update the photo as your pet ages.
- Confirm the carrier and leash are in good shape.

✓ Fold it into your twice-a-year check

When you rotate the family kit at the clock changes, give the pet kit the same once-over. Fresh food, current tags, a ready carrier.

A pet plan for very little

Most of a good pet plan is things you already buy.

Set aside a few days of the food you already feed, keep a jug or two of extra water, and gather the leash, carrier, and bowls you already own into one spot. A current photo and an info card are free. The whole pet plan can come together with almost no extra spending.

✓ Start with a few days of their food

The simplest first step is setting aside a few days of your pet's regular food and some extra water. That alone covers the biggest need.

Your before-a-storm pet steps

When a storm's coming, don't forget the animals.

- ☐ Confirm several days of pet food and extra water are ready.
- ☐ Refill any pet medicines and locate the vet's number.
- ☐ Have the carrier, leash, and records ready to grab.
- ☐ Check ID tags and that microchip info is current.
- ☐ Plan where pets will stay warm or cool in the house.
- ☐ Know your pet-friendly options if you might have to leave.

✓ Bring outdoor pets in early

If a big storm's coming, bring outdoor animals into shelter or the house before it hits. It's much easier than trying to round them up in the wind and dark.

Your printable pet checklist

Everything for your animals, in one place to keep.

- ☐ A few days of pet food and a manual can opener.
- ☐ Extra water and bowls for each animal.
- ☐ Pet medicines, the vet's number, and medical records.
- ☐ A leash, harness, and carrier for each pet.
- ☐ Current ID tags and up-to-date microchip info.
- ☐ A recent photo of each pet.
- ☐ A plan to keep pets warm or cool and calm.
- ☐ A pet-friendly place to go if you must leave.

★ Want help planning for your pets?

I'll help you build a pet kit and fold your animals into the family plan. A first visit is a flat \$99. Call (330) 200-8042.

Common Questions

The pet questions I hear most.

Q: What should be in a pet outage kit?

A few days of their usual food and a manual can opener, extra water and bowls, any medicines and the vet's number, a leash and carrier, waste supplies, a comfort item, and copies of medical records — kept near the family kit.

Q: How do I keep my pet warm or cool in an outage?

In winter, bring them into the warm room and keep them off the cold floor with a bed or blanket. In summer, keep them in the coolest spot with plenty of water, and never leave them in a hot car. Watch for signs of overheating or chilling.

Q: How do I keep a scared pet calm during a storm?

Keep them close, speak calmly, and offer a familiar bed or toy. A covered crate or a small quiet room makes a soothing den. Keep dogs leashed and cats secured so a frightened animal can't bolt and get lost.

Q: What if I have to evacuate with my pets?

Take them and their kit — never leave pets behind. Have a carrier or leash for each, bring food, water, medicines, and records, and know a pet-friendly place to go ahead of time, since not every shelter takes animals.

Q: What about livestock or outdoor animals?

They depend on well water that stops in an outage, so store or plan to supply water, keep shelters sound, keep feed on hand, and have a backup for any powered barn systems. Check on them often through a storm.

★ Your animals are family — let's plan for them

From house pets to livestock, I'll help you make sure every animal is covered. Call or text (330) 200-8042.

You don't have to do this alone

You just have to remember that a friendly, patient person is one call away.

I hope this guide made keeping your pets safe in an outage feel a little less daunting and a lot more doable. Keep it in a drawer with your other home papers, come back to a page whenever you need it, and don't worry about memorizing anything.

When you'd rather have a hand, that's exactly what I do. I come to your home, work at your pace, and never make you feel rushed or silly for asking. A first visit is a flat \$99, and for the parts that don't need me on-site I can often help right on your screen for \$49. Every visit comes with a 30-day, come-back-free guarantee. I don't do the licensed electrical or gas work myself — for that I'll help you line up a trustworthy local pro.

★ Bill's Home Tech — real help, close to home

Call or text me at (330) 200-8042, or visit BillsHomeTech.com. Serving Atwater and all of Portage County. 30+ years of patient, plain-English tech help — and if you're ever not 100% happy with a visit, I'll make it right or refund it. That's a promise. — Bill

Your Pet's Outage Plan

Four steps to keep animals safe



Whatever you do to stay comfortable, do for your pets.

What's in a Pet Kit

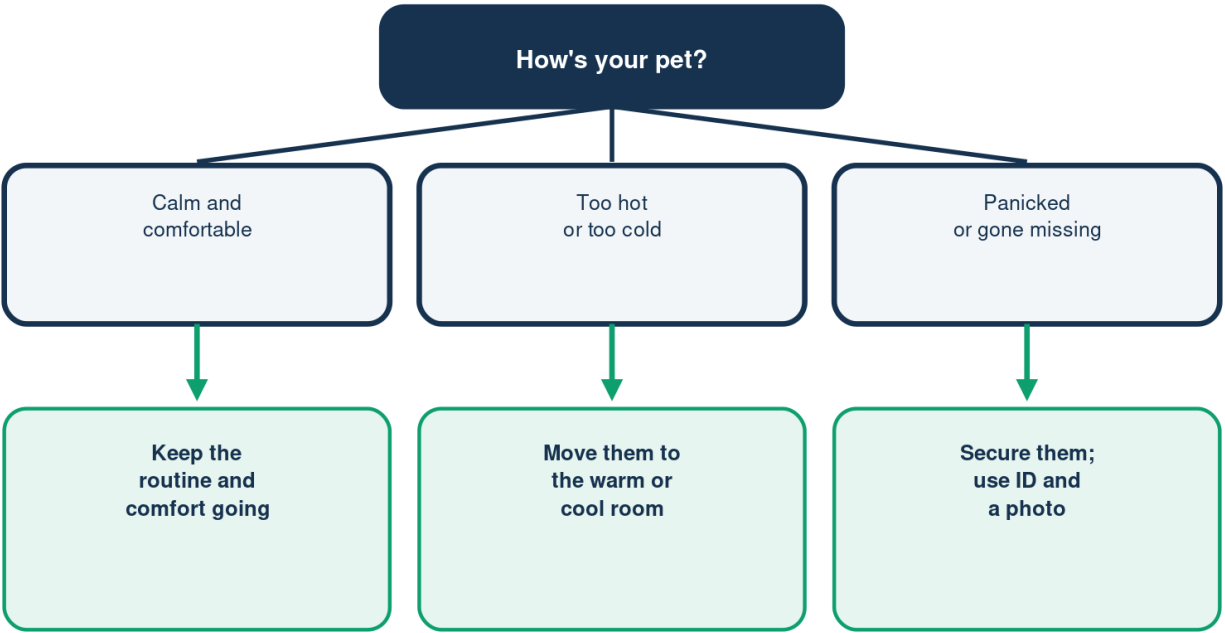
Keep it near the family kit

The short version	
Food & water	A few days, plus a can opener
Health	Medicines, vet, records
Gear	Leash, carrier, bowls
ID	Tags, microchip, a photo
Comfort	A favorite toy or blanket

Their own familiar food and bed help a pet settle.

Is Your Pet Doing Okay?

Watch how they're coping



Never leave a pet in a hot or cold car, even briefly.

Illustration - a schematic, not to scale. Your setup may differ.

Pets in Winter vs. Summer

The season changes what they need

	Winter	Summer
Warmth	Off the cold floor	The coolest room
Water	Keep it from freezing	Extra, kept cool
Danger	Cold, frozen bowls	Overheating, hot cars

Watch for shivering in cold and heavy panting in heat.



Need a Real Person?

You do not have to remember all of it.
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make it right -- or refund it. No awkwardness,
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— Bill

Prefer help without a visit?

Bill can screen-share and fix many things remotely — a flat \$49, free for Support Plan members.



A Note From Bill

A quick note from Bill.

I write these guides to make home tech a little less frustrating, and I do my best to keep every step accurate and up to date. Still, every home, device, and setup is a bit different, so I can't promise a guide will match yours exactly or fix your particular problem. These guides are for general information only — they're not professional, legal, or financial advice, and they don't replace your device's own manual or the manufacturer's instructions. Please go slow, use your own good judgment, and use everything here at your own risk. If a step involves electrical wiring, a gas appliance, a water heater, plumbing, or climbing a ladder — or if anything just doesn't feel safe — please stop and call a licensed professional (or give me a call at 330-200-8042). Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that comes from using these guides. Thanks for reading, and stay safe out there.

— *Bill*



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