

Animals Reactions to Emergency Sheltering

The shelter environment can be quite stressful for animals and may affect them in many ways.

Commons signs of kennel stress can include:

- Drooling
- Diarrhea
- Decreased Appetite
- Hiding
- Pacing
- Excessive Barking
- Fear Aggression
- Shaking or trembling
- General change in behavior/demeanor

Additional issues found in pets in a shelter environment are:

- Gastrointestinal upset or decreased appetite due to dietary change
- External parasites such as fleas and ticks
- Intestinal parasites (worms) that can cause diarrhea, loose stool, blood in stool, or vomiting
- Bacterial or viral infections (such as kennel cough) that can cause coughing, sneezing, decreased appetite or lethargy

Vaccinations must be administered to your pet **prior** to disease exposure to help decrease their susceptibility. Consult your family veterinarian to decide which vaccines are appropriate for your pet.

Current vaccines are especially important for animals that are going to be in a shelter environment or boarding kennel as the stress of being kenneled decreases your pet's ability to fight off diseases.