

Providing Essential Temporary Shelter Assistance For Emergencies (PETSAFE) Act is a bipartisan bill led by Sen. Schiff (D-CA), and Reps. Mast (R-FL), Titus (D-NV), Buchanan (R-FL), and Chu (D-CA).

PETSAFE Act Overview

Americans consider their pets to be a part of the family, and many won't evacuate during an emergency without them. This puts animals, families, and first responders at risk. Our nation's emergency response plans must reflect this reality. The PETSAFE Act would help communities to better prepare and care for pets before, during, and after disasters. **Disaster planning for pets is disaster planning for people.**

Why We Need PETSAFE Act

The evacuation and response efforts during Hurricane Katrina shed light on the devastating consequences of failing to account for pets during disasters. During Hurricane Katrina, families were often told by emergency responders to evacuate and leave their pets behind. Between 150,000 and 200,000 people didn't evacuate and nearly half of those said they stayed because of a pet. **The lack of emergency planning for pets resulted in loss of animal life and human life.**



In response, Congress passed the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards (PETS) Act of 2006, which requires state and local emergency plans to account for pets and service animals in order to receive federal assistance. It also allows FEMA to rescue, care for, and provide financial assistance for household pets and service animals. The PETS Act was an important step in the right direction, but deficiencies in pet-inclusive disaster planning still remain.

What PETSAFE Act Does

The PETSAFE Act incentivizes state, local, and tribal governments to strengthen emergency preparedness for animals. Specifically, the bill would:

- Amend an existing grant program to increase the federal cost share to 90 percent for animal-related emergency preparedness activities, such as investing in mobile equipment trailers, emergency sheltering equipment and supplies, medical supplies, training staff, and providing other vital resources for animals.
- Require state and local emergency plans to account for the needs of animal shelters, ensuring that pets are fully included in disaster planning.

Who supports PETSAFE Act

Endorsing organizations include the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, National Animal Rescue and Sheltering Coalition, Humane World for Animals, Humane World Action Fund, Animal Welfare Institute, and Best Friends Animal Society.

Helping states prepare for disasters today saves lives tomorrow.

If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact Daniel Leonardini at Daniel.Leonardini@aspca.org.