

# CARES



California Animal Response Emergency System

## Calculating the Number of Animals in a Geographic Area

# of people evacuating \_\_\_\_\_ / 2.91 people per household\* = \_\_\_\_\_ (# of evacuating households) \*US Census Bureau, 2011

# of evacuating households \_\_\_\_\_ x

.53 for dogs \_\_\_\_\_

.60 for cats \_\_\_\_\_

.13 for birds \_\_\_\_\_

.04 for horses \_\_\_\_\_

.01 for others \_\_\_\_\_

(Note: % may be much higher in rural areas)

(A) \_\_\_\_\_ Total number of animals

(B) \_\_\_\_\_ Total households seeking shelter divided by those who evacuated (a percentage like 10%)

Take that percentage (B) times total maximum pets (A) to assess likely size of sheltering capacity needs

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*Example:* If 3000 households evacuate and seek shelter you would expect a maximum of some 4400 kind of animals, but since only 400 (13%) of evacuating households sought shelter, that number would be nearer to 572 of all pet types. Size of pets must also be considered.

### Useful statistics:

California is home to nearly 19 million domestic animals. Polls conducted in 2012 estimate that California is home to 6.7 million dogs and 7.1 million cats. The California Department of Food and Agriculture reported in 2012 that there are over 5.5 million cattle in California (1.8 million of which are dairy cows), 570,000 sheep, 141,000 goats, 670,000 horses, just over 100,000 hogs, and millions of chickens in the Golden State.

Approximately one out of every three households in California owns a dog or a cat. Furthermore, households that do own them tend to own an average of 2.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Average Number of Pets per Pet- Owning Household</b>
<b>Dogs</b>	1.69
<b>Cats</b>	2.19
<b>Birds</b>	2.74
<b>Horses</b>	2.67

Source: U.S. Pet Ownership and Demographics Sourcebook, Center for Information Management. American Veterinary Medical Association. Schaumburg, IL 2012.

For Livestock numbers, refer to the California Agricultural Statistics Review:

[http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/Full\\_Report/Census\\_by\\_State/California/](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/Full_Report/Census_by_State/California/)

## **QUICK ESTIMATE CALCULATOR**

### **Method 1:**

During a disaster less than 10% of the evacuating population will normally seek public shelter.

As a general rule of thumb, one out of every three households in California owns a pet. On average, it can be expected that a household, if it utilizes sheltering services, will bring 1.7 dogs or 2.2 cats.

Example:

<b><u>Estimated Evacuating Household Pet Population</u></b>				
Evacuating Households	Number that will seek shelter (approx. 10%)	Number seeking shelter that have pets (1 out of 3)	Estimated Number of Pets	
			Dogs (x1.7)	Cats (x2.2)
1000	100	33	56	73

### **Method 2:**

Another method of determining how many animals will require shelter services is to determine the estimated number of animals in a population:

AVMA Pet Population Calculator

<https://www.avma.org/KB/Resources/Statistics/Pages/US-pet-ownership-calculator.aspx>

and then multiply by 0.10 (on account of 10% actually requiring sheltering services.)