

AFTER THE FLOOD: ANIMAL ISSUES

FACT SHEET

After a flood, you may find creatures in your house and yard that weren't there before, like insects and spiders, stray dogs, and cats.

Many wild animals have been forced from their natural habitats by flooding, and many pets and livestock are also displaced after a flood. Take care to avoid these animals, because some may carry rabies. If you are bitten, seek medical attention.

Remember, most animals are disoriented and displaced, too. Do not corner an animal. If an animal must be removed, contact your local animal shelter.

Stay away from strange dogs and cats; they may be lost and scared and may bite you even though you are trying to help them.



Disposing of Dead Animals

Do not touch dead animals. If you must handle dead animals, be sure to wear gloves and wash your hands afterwards.

Responsibility for proper disposal of animal carcasses rests with the owner or caretaker.

Follow the following guidelines to dispose of animal carcasses:

1. You cannot burn the carcass.
2. You may not bury an animal in a preapproved subdivision or on property less than 5 acres in size. If less than 5 acres, consider disposal at the landfill or at the Humane Society of Cascade County.
3. You must maintain a minimum of 4 feet from the bottom of the grave to any groundwater.
4. You must cover the grave with a minimum of 2 feet of cover.
5. The grave must be 200 yards minimum from any road, street, alley, or public recreation property.
6. The grave must be a minimum of 100 feet from any well or surface body of water.



For more information, contact CCHD's Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program at 452-0881 x310 or visit www.cchdmt.org or www.cdc.gov.