

Michelson Found Animals

Better Neighbor Project

Quick Guide for Hotels Accommodating Pet Cats During Emergencies

So many are facing displacement in the aftermath of the LA wildfires, and for pet parents, there is an added concern of caring for their pets in an unfamiliar environment – including cats. While cats can seem like a challenge in times of transition, with the right resources and understanding, they can be accommodated effectively in short-term stays. Cats provide invaluable emotional support, offering comfort and a sense of normalcy during times of uncertainty. With a little extra planning and care, hotels can ensure families remain with their furry companions.

1. Room Preparation

- **Track pet-friendly rooms:** Add a notation in the booking system for guests with cats (and all pets) to provide targeted cleaning post-stay and minimize potential allergic reactions for future guests.
- **Offer temporary scratching posts and hiding spaces:** Provide or recommend portable cardboard or sisal scratching posts to offer enrichment and keep cats entertained, this can be as simple as a cardboard box or scrap piece of carpet. Consider keeping empty cardboard boxes and make them available to guests with cats. They make great hiding cubbies.
- **Supply toys and treats:** Provide or recommend guests bring interactive toys and treats and calming sprays or diffusers like Feliway.

2. Litter Box Management

- **Provide a dedicated space for litter boxes:** Suggest placing the litter box in the bathroom for easy clean up. Litter boxes can easily be fashioned out of cardboard boxes lined with a trash bag if the guest is not able to provide their own.
- **Supply disposable litter boxes:** Encourage guests to use liners, making it easier to clean up after their stay. A good rule of thumb is to have 1 litter box per cat + 1 additional box to keep things fresh and clean.
- **Stock extra trash bags:** Make additional trash bags readily available for quick disposal of litter. Dog waste bags work great for this purpose.

Michelson Found Animals

Better Neighbor Project

4. Safety Measures

- **Ensure rooms are escape-proof:** Check that windows and balcony doors are secure to prevent cats from escaping.
- **Provide a checklist for pet owners:** Offer a simple checklist to remind pet owners to keep their cats indoors, monitor them closely, and clean up after them.
- **Set clear guidelines:** Provide a simple list of rules and responsibilities for guests with cats, such as keeping cats in carriers when outside the room.

5. Cleaning Protocols

- **Vacuum thoroughly:** Ensure all fur and dander are removed, especially from carpets and furniture.
- **Deep-clean regularly:** Perform regular deep-cleaning of pet-friendly rooms to maintain high standards for all guests.

Michelson Found Animals Foundation (MFA) is partnering with Greater Good Charities (GGC) to provide urgent support to displaced pets and their owners across Los Angeles County. As part of this effort, we are distributing nearly 17 tons of pet food from our Better Neighbor Project warehouse.

For additional guidance and to request pet food and supplies to better accommodate your guests, please email betterneighbor@foundanimals.org.

Michelson Found Animals Foundation, founded in 2005, directly provides animal welfare services and champions pets at every point they intersect with our society. The foundation operates a range of initiatives, including grants and programs that put resources in the hands of communities in need, research that promotes pet-friendly policies, and more. Learn more at foundanimals.org.