

Emergency Preparedness for Pets

Our pets depend on us for love, care, and safety. Here are some ideas that can help prepare for the well-being of your pet should disaster strike.

Plan Ahead

- Develop a disaster plan that includes your pet. Prepare for two scenarios – what to do if you remain in your home and what to do should evacuation be necessary.
- Keep up-to-date identification on your pet at all times. MicroChip your pet.
- Keep vaccinations current
- Have a “Pet Survival Kit” and a list of “Pet Emergency Telephone Numbers”.
- Emergency Shelters cannot accept pets (except, in some cases, service animals for the disabled). Prepare a list of “pet friendly” places where you and your pet may go if evacuation is necessary.
- Make arrangements with trusted neighbors to care for your pet should you be away when a disaster occurs.



During/After a Disaster

- If you have warning of an approaching disaster, bring and keep your pet inside.
- Prepare a safe, calm area for your pet. Pet-proof the room. Remove or disconnect any objects that may cause fire, shock, etc.
- Keep your pet away from windows and objects that could fall on him/her. If flooding is a concern, move your pet above potential water levels.
- Do not try to hold or restrain your pet during a disaster. The calmest pet can become upset, panicked and aggressive and could cause harm to him/herself, you, or others.
- If you must evacuate try to take your pet with you. But do so only if it is safe for both you & your pet.
- Keep a leash and collar on your pet whenever he/she goes outdoors. (Do not use a choke chain. It can easily be caught and cause injury or death.)
- If you must leave your pet behind, be sure he/she will be provided with adequate ventilation. Leave plenty of water and easily accessible food. DO NOT tie up your pet. Leave a sign on your home indicating that there is a pet inside.
- Be aware of dangers to your pet after a disaster. In the home, there may be broken glass or other harmful items. Outdoors watch for fallen power lines, broken glass, contaminated water and other dangerous substances.



Pet Survival Kit

- Three day food supply
- Three day water supply
- Two week supply of medication
- Pet carrier
- Litter and litter box for cats
- Extra leash and collar (not choke chain) for dogs
- Unbreakable food/water bowls
- Non-electric can opener
- Plastic bags for waste disposal
- Newspaper and paper towels
- Scissors
- Current photos of your pets kept in a water tight plastic bag
- Instructions on special pet care including allergies, medical conditions, medications, etc.
- Some toys
- Basic first aid kit



If Your Pet is Lost

- Call Shelters every day (Frightened animals can travel great distances so also contact shelters in nearby communities.)
- Visit local Animal Shelters in person every three days. You are the only person who can truly identify your pet.
- Post fliers including a detailed description of your pet. Include your pet's picture and name as well as numbers where you may be reached.
- Contact local veterinarians and let them know your pet is missing.
- Once you've found your pet, contact those you notified so that their efforts may be directed to still missing animals.



A Word about Animals Other than Dogs and Cats

- Small mammals including rabbits, hamsters, reptiles, etc. should be kept and transported in secure carriers suitable for maintaining them while sheltered.
- Rabbits should be kept cool. Reptiles will need a heat source.
- Fish tanks and aquariums are top heavy and unstable. Be sure to secure them and/or place them on the floor to prevent toppling.
- Birds must eat every day to survive. Provide a few slices of fresh fruits and vegetables with high water content if you can. Make sure birds have leg bands and that you have a current photo. If you must transport the bird in cold weather, wrap a blanket over his/her carrier and warm the car before placing your bird inside. If the weather is warm, try to carry a mister to mist the feathers periodically.

Emergency Telephone Numbers You Should Keep Nearby

- Emergency 24-hour Pet Medical Clinic
- National Animal Poison Control
- Veterinarian
- Pet Sitter/Boarding Kennel
- Local Animal Shelters (in case your pet is lost)
- Other Emergency Contacts