



Pet Owner Tips & Disaster Readiness

Help protect pets by spreading the word about emergency and disaster preparedness.

Emergencies and disasters come in many forms, and each type of disaster requires different measures to keep your pets safe. The best thing you can do for yourself and your pets is to be prepared.

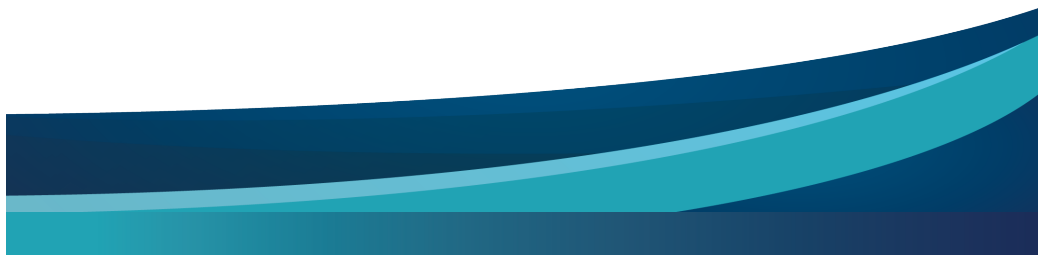
Arrange a Safe Haven

Arrange a safe haven for your pets in the event of evacuation or emergency. **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PETS BEHIND.** It is imperative that you have determined where you will bring your pets ahead of time:

- Contact your veterinarian for a list of preferred boarding kennels and facilities.
- Identify hotels or motels outside of your immediate area that accepts pets.
- Ask friends and relatives outside your immediate area if they would be willing to take in your pet.

Choose “Designated Caregivers”

This step will take considerable time and thought. When selecting a permanent or a temporary caregiver, you’ll need to consider numerous factors. This is a person to whom you are entrusting the care of your pet in the event that something should happen to you or in the case of an emergency where you will have an extended leave of absence. Consider people who have met your pet, and have successfully cared for animals in the past. Be sure to discuss your expectations at length with a caregiver, so they understand the responsibility of caring for your pet.



Prepare Emergency Supplies and a Kit

If you must evacuate your home in a crisis, plan for the worst-case scenario. Even if you think you may be gone for only a day, assume that you may not be allowed to return for several weeks. When recommendations for evacuation have been announced, follow the instructions of local and state officials.

- Make sure all pets wear collars and tags with up-to-date identification information. Your pet's ID tag should contain his name, telephone number and any urgent medical needs. Be sure to also write your pet's name, your name and contact information on your pet's carrier.
- We recommend microchipping you pet as a more permanent form of identification. A microchip is implanted under the skin, and can be read by a scanner at most animal shelters or vets.

Store an emergency kit and leashes as close to an exist as possible. Make sure that everyone in the family knows where it is, and that it clearly labeled and easy to carry. Items to consider keeping in your kit include:

- Pet first-aid kit and guide book (ask your vet what to include)
- 3-7 days worth of canned (pop-top) or dry food
- Disposable litter trays
- Litter or paper toweling
- Disposable garbage bags for clean-up
- Pet feeding dishes and water bowls
- Extra collar, leash, or harness
- Medical records and a two-week supply of any medicine
- A traveling bag, crate, or sturdy carrier
- Flashlight
- Blanket

