



If there's an emergency will you **Be Prepared?**

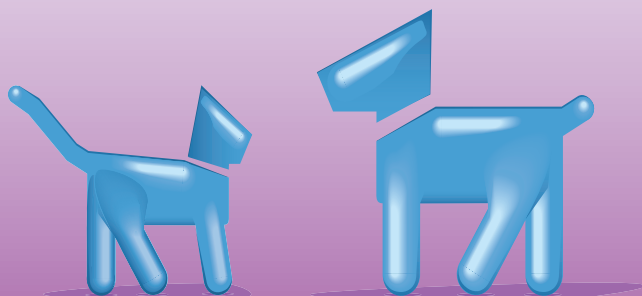
What You Need To Know About Personal Preparedness



NASA

Know Your Stuff

Be Prepared



Pet Emergency Plan and Supply Kit



Are You Ready?

Pet Emergency Plan and Supply Kit

Pets are often an important part of people's lives. Because pets are often considered a part of the family, they can influence a person's decision to take protective actions during an emergency. That is why it is important to develop an emergency plan and supply kit for your pets to ensure their safety.

Be Prepared

Do you have an emergency plan in place for your pet? Creating an emergency plan for your pet is very similar to creating an emergency plan for your family. The first step is to understand the potential threats to your area. Making the decision to shelter-in-place or evacuate during an emergency will usually depend on your personal circumstances. It is important to understand local area plans and the resources available for pets in an emergency.

The Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2006 was enacted in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, when it was apparent that provisions need to be made for pets during and after major emergencies. Even though service animals are always accepted at emergency shelters, this act requires that state and local emergency preparedness operational plans take into account the needs of individuals with household pets before, during, and after a disaster. However, it is your responsibility to plan ahead to make certain that your family and pets will have a safe place to stay. Take the time to research your plans before an emergency occurs; it will give you and your family peace of mind knowing your family pet is being taken care of.

Your Pet's Plan

Take the time to identify resources that may be available in your local community. Plan how you will gather your pets and know where to take them if you have to evacuate. Secure appropriate lodging in advance, depending on the number and type of animals in your care; options could include a hotel or motel (ask about their pet policy) or a boarding kennel or veterinary hospital that is near your evacuation shelter. Identify an alternative caretaker for your pets in an emergency; this person could be a friend, family member, or neighbor. Make sure that they have a key to your personal residence and review the specific needs of your pets.

Alternate Caretakers

Whether it is a neighbor, a friend, or a relative, it is important to make sure that someone is available to care for or evacuate your pets if you are unable to do so. Talk with your alternative caretaker about the specific needs of your pet. Be sure that they know your evacuation plans and show them where you keep your pet's emergency supply kit. Identify two evacuation locations, one in your immediate neighborhood and another farther away, where you will meet in an emergency. Provide them with a list of facilities that may be able to provide care for your pet(s) in the event of an emergency.

Just as you do with your family's emergency supply kit, think first about the basics for survival, particularly food and water. Your first kit should be built for a shelter-in-place scenario. The other kit should be a lightweight, smaller version that can be easily transportable. Review your pet's emergency supply kit regularly to ensure that the contents, especially foods and medicines, are fresh.

Below are some recommended items to include in your pet's emergency supply kit. Feel free to add any items that you feel are necessary. Visit the Humane Society of the United States for more information on emergency preparedness for pets.

Food—Keep at least 3 days of food in an airtight, waterproof container.

Water—Store at least 3 days of water specifically for your pets. This should be in addition to the water you need for yourself and your family.

Medications—Keep an extra supply of the medications that your pet takes on a regular basis in a waterproof container. Include directions for administering the medications and the proper dosages.

First-aid kit—Talk to your veterinarian about what is most appropriate for your pet's emergency medical needs. Most kits include cotton bandage rolls, bandage tape and scissors, antibiotic ointment, flea and tick prevention, latex gloves, rubbing alcohol, and saline solution.

Collar with ID tag, harness, or leash—Your pet should wear a collar with its rabies tag and identification at all times. Include a leash, collar, and ID tag in your pet's emergency supply kit. You should also consider talking with your veterinarian about permanent identification, such as microchipping, and enrolling your pet in a recovery database.

Important documents—Place copies of your pet's registration information, adoption papers, vaccination documents, medical records, and your veterinarians contact information in a clean plastic bag or waterproof container.

Crate or other pet carrier—If you need to evacuate in an emergency situation, take your pets and animals with you, if it is practical to do so. Use a sturdy, safe, and comfortable carrier (such as a crate) to transport your pets. The crate or carrier should be large enough for your pet to stand, turn around, and lie down.

Sanitation—Include pet litter and a litter box, if appropriate. Also include newspapers, paper towels, plastic trash bags, and household disinfectant to provide for your pet's sanitation needs.

A picture of you and your pet together—If you become separated from your pet during an emergency, a picture of you and your pet together will help you document ownership and allow others to assist you in identifying your pet. Include detailed information about species, breed, age, sex, color, and distinguishing characteristics.

Familiar items—Put favorite toys, treats, and bedding in your kit. Familiar items can help reduce stress for your pet.

Special Considerations

Special Considerations for Birds

- Birds should be transported in a secure travel cage or carrier.
- In cold weather, make certain you have a blanket over your pet's cage. This may also help reduce the stress of traveling.
- In warm weather, carry a spray bottle to periodically moisten your bird's feathers.
- Have recent photos available and keep your bird's leg bands on for identification.
- If the carrier does not have a perch, line it with paper towels that you can change frequently.
- Keep the carrier in as quiet an area as possible.
- It is imperative that birds eat on a daily basis, so purchase a timed feeder. If you need to leave your bird unexpectedly, the feeder will ensure his daily feeding schedule.
- Keep the following items on hand: catch net, heavy towel, blanket or sheet to cover cage, and cage liner.

Special Considerations for Reptiles

- A snake may be transported in a pillowcase, but you should have permanent and secure housing for him when you reach a safe place.
- Take a sturdy bowl that is large for your pet to soak in. It is also a good idea to bring along a heating pad or other warming device, such as a hot water bottle.
- Lizards can be transported like birds (see Special Considerations for Birds).

Special Considerations for Small Animals

- Small animals, such as hamsters, gerbils, mice, and guinea pigs, should be transported in secure carriers with bedding materials, food, and food bowls.
- Keep the following items on hand: salt lick, an extra water bottle, a small hide-box or tube, and a week's worth of bedding.

After an Emergency

Your home may be a different place after an emergency. It is important to realize that you and your family will not be the only ones feeling stress and anxiety. Below are some important points to keep in mind for your pets as you return home after an emergency.

- Keep your pets on a leash or in a crate if you are walking around your property. Familiar smells and landmarks to your pet may be gone after an emergency; this can be disorienting for your pet.
- Your house may not be completely secure when you arrive home. Taking your pets off a leash or releasing them from a crate could allow them to escape and become lost.
- Be patient with your pets. Take the time to get them into familiar routines as soon as possible. Expect behavioral problems as a result of the emergency. If these problems persist or you notice other medical issues, contact your veterinarian and get assistance.



