

# PET EMERGENCY PLAN AND SUPPLY KIT

General Preparedness



Pets can also be affected by a number of hazard situations. While preparing your family emergency plan, don't forget to include plans for your pets.

## Before a Disaster or Emergency

- **Make a preparedness kit for your pet.**
  - Leash and collar: clearly labeled with your pet's name, your name and a contact number
  - Transport carrier: clearly labeled with your name and a contact number
  - Food and water (5-7 day supply) – don't forget bowls and a non-electric can opener
  - Any medications for the pet
  - Copies of your pet's medical and vaccination records (e.g., rabies certificate)
  - Your veterinarian's name and phone number
  - Paper towels, newspapers, plastic trash bags, disinfectant (e.g., bleach) for waste clean-up
  - Toys or blankets the pet will find familiar
- **Provide for the special needs of unique pets.**
  - Birds/lizards: blanket to keep cage warm, spray bottle to hydrate feathers and scales
  - Snakes: pillowcase to transport, heating pad for warmth, water bowl to soak
  - Pocket pets (hamsters/gerbils): cage/bedding material, water bottles
- **Store items in a sturdy container that can be easily carried.**
  - Covered trash container, duffle bag, plastic tote, bucket
- **Make sure pets are current on all vaccinations.**
- **Identification**
  - All pets should have some sort of identification (collar with tag, microchip).
  - Take a photo of the pet and keep it with the medical records.
  - Include any proof of ownership materials (e.g., registration information, proof of purchase, adoption records, microchip information).
- **Practice loading your pet into their cage, carrier, or trailer.**
- **Identify pet friendly locations in case of the need to evacuate.**
  - Board with friends/relatives in a safe area.
  - Check with your local animal shelter, boarding facility, or veterinary clinic.
  - Pet friendly hotels - [www.petswelcome.com](http://www.petswelcome.com)

## During a Disaster or Emergency

- **If you are sheltering in place:**
  - Bring your pet indoors.
  - Place them inside a carrier or cage to help reduce their stress.
- **If you need to evacuate:**
  - Take your pets with you whenever possible.
  - Allow plenty of time to catch and "load" your pet.
  - Make sure your pet has identification securely fastened to them.
  - Call your prearranged animal evacuation site.
- **If you must leave your pets behind:**
  - NEVER leave pets tied up outside.
  - Leave them untied in an interior room with adequate air and no windows (e.g., bathroom).
  - Purchase a self-feeder in advance and leave enough food and water for 3-5 days.
  - Leave a faucet dripping as a water source; keep the sink drain open.
  - Leave a notice on your front door with the location and type of pets inside, their names and your contact phone number.

## After the Disaster or Emergency

- **A pet's behavior may change before, during and even after a disaster.**
  - In the first few days after the disaster, leash your pets when they go outside.
  - Maintain close contact to help them readjust to the changed environment.

## For More Information

### Saving the Whole Family (AVMA)

Booklet to help make disaster preparations for your pets.

[http://www.avma.org/disaster/saving\\_family.asp](http://www.avma.org/disaster/saving_family.asp)

### Disaster Preparedness for Pets (HSUS)

Brochure to help you plan for the needs of your pets during an emergency.

[http://www.humanesociety.org/assets/pdfs/disaster/disaster\\_preparedness\\_pets.pdf](http://www.humanesociety.org/assets/pdfs/disaster/disaster_preparedness_pets.pdf)

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