



## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

### Preparing Your Pet for Emergencies

Our pets are important members of our family. The likelihood that you and your animals survive an emergency depends largely on the emergency planning you do today. Some of the things you do to prepare for the unexpected, such as putting together an animal emergency supply kit and developing a pet care buddy system, are the same for any emergency. Whether you decide to stay put or evacuate to a safer location, you will need to make plans in advance for your pets. Keep in mind that what is best for you is usually what's best for your animals.

If you must evacuate, take your animals with you if possible. However, if you are going to a public shelter, it is important to understand that animals may not be allowed inside. Plan in advance for shelter alternatives that will work for you and your pets.

Make a backup plan in case you cannot care for your animals yourself. Develop a buddy system with neighbors, friends and relatives to make sure that someone is available to care for or evacuate your pets if you are unable to do so. Be prepared to improvise and use what you have on hand to make it on your own for at least three days, maybe longer.

Below is a list of basic items to include in a Pet Emergency Supply Kit:

- **Food.** Keep at least three days of food in an airtight, waterproof container.
- **Water.** Store at least three days of water specifically for your pet, in addition to water you will need for yourself and your family.
- **Pet Meds and Medical Records.** Keep an extra supply of medicines your pet takes regularly in a waterproof container.
- **Pet First Aid Kit.** Talk to your vet ahead of time about what is most appropriate for your pet's emergency medical needs. Basic supplies should include cotton bandage rolls, bandage tape and scissors, antibiotic ointment, flea and tick prevention, latex gloves, rubbing alcohol and saline solution. Include a pet first aid reference book.
- **Collar and ID Tag, Harness or Leash.** Your pet should wear a collar with its rabies tag and ID tag at all times. Include a backup leash, collar and ID tag in your kit.
- **Important Documents.** Place copies of your pet's registration information, adoption papers, vaccination documents and medical records in a clean plastic bag or waterproof container and add to your kit.
- **Crate / Pet Carrier.** Use these for evacuation purposes.
- **Sanitation.** Include pet litter, litter box, if appropriate, newspapers, paper towels, plastic trash bags and household chlorine bleach for provide for your pet's sanitation needs. Bleach can be used as a disinfectant (dilute nine parts water to one part bleach), or to purify water for your pet (use eight drops of bleach per gallon and let stand for 30 minutes before use). Do not use scented or color safe bleaches or those with added cleaners.
- **Photograph.** Include a photo of you and your pet. This will assist in reuniting you should your pet get separated from you. Include on the back details 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.

Consider making two kits. In one, put everything your pets will need to stay where you are. Make the second a lightweight version that you can take with you if you and your pets need to evacuate. Make a plan ahead of time and be prepared to assess the situation. Use common sense and whatever you have on hand to take care of yourself and ensure your pet's safety during an emergency. For more information, visit: [ready.gov](http://ready.gov) or call: 1-800-BE-READY.