

Disaster Preparedness

How you can protect your pets in case of disaster



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Disaster Preparedness for Pets –

- **Have a disaster kit in advance**
- **If you evacuate, take the pets with you**
- **Don't forget ID**
- **Find a safe place ahead of time**
- **What to do if you decide to stay**
- **What to do as the disaster approaches**
- **What to do in case you aren't home**
- **What to do after the disaster**
- **Other evacuation tips**



Disaster Supply Checklist

- Stock up on non perishable in advance and perishables at the last minute
- Medications and medical records/ first aid kit in a waterproof container
- Leashes, carriers and cages to prevent escape
- Food/water for at least 3 days. Bedding, bowls, water bottles and litter/litter box (for cats)



Disaster Supply Checklist

- Current photos and descriptions of pets to identify in case of separation
- Feeding/ medication schedules, medical conditions, behavior issues and vet information
- Pet beds and toys to reduce stress
- Paper towels, plastic bags and bleach



Card Example:

EMERGENCY PET INFORMATION		
PET NAME: _____	SEX: M / F	AGE: _____
OWNER NAME: _____		
HOME ADDRESS: _____		
CITY: _____	STATE: _____	ZIP: _____
PHONE #: _____	OTHER #: _____	
DOC LICENSE #: _____	TOWN: _____	
MICROCHIP #: _____	COMPANY: _____	
MEDICAL ISSUES: _____		

VETRENARIAN: _____	PHONE #: _____	
VETRENARIAN HOSPITAL: _____		
OTHER PET INFORMATION: _____		
<i>Attach a recent printed picture of your pet, and use the reverse side of this card for any additional information.</i>		

If You Evacuate, Take the Pets

- If it is not safe for you, it is not safe for them
- Don't turn animals loose or tie/chain them up
- Assume that you will not be able to return in a few hours (take the Pets)
- Leave early if you plan to leave

Don't Forget ID

- Pets should have up to date identification (tags/collars, microchips)
- Identification if possible should include a phone number of someone outside of the immediate area as a contact

Have A Safe Place Ahead of Time

- Contact hotels/motels to check pet policies
- Ask if no-pet rules can be waived
- Check with friends, relatives or others
- Have a list of boarding facilities/vets
- Ask the local shelters if they provide foster care/shelters for pets



- Download pet friendly Hotel/motel locator on your cell phone.

If You Don't Evacuate

- Have a safe area in the house for all
- Keep pets in carriers and make sure they have identification
- Have medications and the disaster kit on hand
- Have emergency power / air conditioning on hand and gasoline to run generators

Portable Air Conditioner



When the Disaster Approaches

- Don't wait until the last moment to get ready
- Call to confirm emergency shelter arrangements
- Bring pets inside and confine (for their safety)
- Make sure disaster supplies are ready to go

In Case You Are NOT Home

- Have arrangements in place with a trusted neighbor / friend



After the Disaster

- Don't allow pets to run loose (debris and confusion)
- Keep pets in carriers or confined (they are still scared and can get hurt)
- Be patient with pets
- Get back to a normal routine as quick as possible

Other Evacuation Tips

- All mobile home residents should evacuate
- Evacuate to the safest location closest to home
- Identify evacuation routes and have alternates
- Practice your evacuation and packing
- Keep everyone informed on where all emergency supplies are
- Keep emergency supplies up-to-date

Disaster Preparation Test

- Can you gather all pets and put into carriers in time?
- Do you have carriers for all pets?
- Are all pets wearing identification?
- If a pet escapes the carrier, do you have a photo identify?
- Do you know where to go with pets in the event of an emergency evacuation?
- Do you know of pet friendly Motels/Hotels nearby?
- Do you know where your local emergency animal Shelter is located/
- Do you have your veterinarian's number in case your pet becomes ill?

Who will Care for My Pets?

- Each state has laws in place recognizing pet trusts as legal
- Have not only a WILL but a Codicil in place in the event of your death / incapacitation stating who will care for your pets.



What is a Codicil?

- A codicil is an amendment to your WILL which can add or alter the terms of your WILL
- Advantages to codicils are that they are not as expensive as creating a WILL and if contested, the original will is valid.

Why have a Codicil/ WILL?

- Specifically states who will care for your pets
- Can award monetary amounts for their care
- Can specifically state the level of care the pets must receive
- Can make the monetary gift conditional on caring for the pets
- What to Include In the Codicil?
- List each pet and medical conditions as well as the veterinarian you use.
- Designate a trustee or caregiver
- Make sure they know in advance
- Be specific when you set up the document
- List specific requests
- Have a back-up plan
- Spell out what happens in the event the pet(s) become terminally ill/die
- Keep a copy of the document
- Give a copy to your person(s) you have chosen to care for your pet(s)

In Conclusion

- In the event of a disaster, preparing in advance and having a plan can mean the difference between having everything that you need and not; which can result in life or death for your pet(s)
- There is no such thing as over preparation!!
- Practice your evacuation

