



Pet Preparedness for Disasters

Pets are members of the family. They need to be included in your family's emergency plan. Never leave them behind!

To prepare for disasters, follow these tips:

1. **Plan:** Create a plan on what to do in a disaster or emergency. Where are you going to shelter?
2. **Prepare:** Build an emergency to-go bag kit for your pet.
3. **Practice:** Practice your plan with family and pets.

Plan Ahead

- **Create a plan before the disaster happens.** Plan how you will assemble your pets quickly and anticipate where you will go. If you must evacuate, take your pets with you! Never leave them behind!
- **Create a buddy system.** Plan with neighbors, friends, or relatives to care for or evacuate your pets if you are not home or unable to do it yourself.
- **Secure a place to stay in advance,** if it is not safe to shelter in place. It is vital to know the different options of where you and your pet can go before the disaster happens.
Sheltering (in order of preference)
 1. Family or friend's home
 2. Pet friendly hotel
 3. Emergency shelter that accepts pets (like a County Shelter with a County Animal Response Team)

Prepare

Pet Evacuation To-go bag:

- Food: At least 3 days' worth and a bowl. Store food in a waterproof container
- Water: 3 days' worth in non-breakable containers and a bowl
- Medications with instructions
- Records: Re-sealable plastic bag with Pet License, microchip, ID, proof of vaccinations, medical records, and name/phone of your veterinarian
- Photos of pet with owners
- Crate: Proper size metal or plastic pet carrier for each pet
- Leashes, collar, ID tag, obedience tools
- First Aid Kit: cotton bandage roll/pads, bandage tape, bandage scissors, antibiotic ointment, latex gloves, tweezers, saline eye solution, sterile lubricating jelly, a towel, and a basic pet first aid book
- Sanitation needs and grooming supplies: Newspapers, paper towels, handy-wipes, can openers, a flashlight, blankets, doggie disposable bags
- Cats: litter, litter pan, scoop, disposable bags
- Special needs items for exotic pets, such as a heat source, diet, specific housing



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Practice

- Have your entire family practice evacuating with your pets so everyone knows what to take, where to find the pets, and where to meet if you are not at home. Go through the motions
- Know where your pet might hide when stressed or scared. Practice catching your pet
- For cats, you can practice removing your cat from its hiding spot and using your cat's carrier or a sturdy box to get your cat quickly out of harm's way
- Train your pets to get in and stay in their carriers willingly by making it a comfortable place
- Place your emergency to-go bags in an easy to reach place so you can evacuate quickly
- Check your emergency pet to-go bag every 6 months. Rotate the food

Be Informed

- Sign up for your local or county emergency alerts. Stay informed of current conditions and know how you will receive emergency alerts and warnings
- Listen to local officials when they tell you to evacuate. Always bring your pets indoors at the first sign or warning of a storm
- Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA), will warn you when extreme weather threatens your specific area. They are emergency messages sent by authorized government alerting authorities through your mobile carrier directly to your cell phone. No signup is required!

REMEMBER

Take your pets with you!

