



PREPAREDNESS FOR PETS



For many, animals are an important part of our lives and households. Disaster planning and preparedness for your family must also include how you will help your pets or service animals through a difficult time. **Take steps now to prepare for your pet's safety!**




POST A RESCUE ALERT STICKER. Fill out and place in a spot visible to rescue workers. Include the phone number of your vet and/or emergency pet buddy. If you have to evacuate, always take your animal companions and write 'EVACUATED' across the sticker. **Order a free sticker at www.ASPCA.org.**



RESEARCH SAFE PLACES TO TAKE YOUR PETS

Plan ahead! **Most disaster shelters cannot accept pets** because of health and safety regulations, although they will establish a nearby pet shelter area if possible. Service Animals are generally the only animals allowed in disaster shelters. Local animal control shelters may not have room or may also have to evacuate. **Make plans for your pets before a disaster strikes:**

Contact hotels/motels outside your immediate area to check policies on accepting pets and any restrictions. Ask if "no pet" policies could be waived in an emergency. **Keep a list of "pet friendly" places and their phone numbers with your other disaster information and supplies.** If you have advance notice of an impending disaster, call ahead for reservations.

ESTABLISH A PET BUDDY: ask friends, family, or others outside your immediate area whether they could shelter your animals in an emergency. If you have more than one pet, be prepared to house them separately if need be. 

Prepare a list of boarding facilities and veterinarians in areas you might evacuate to who could shelter animals in a disaster; include 24-hour numbers.

ASSEMBLE A PET DISASTER SUPPLIES KIT



Whether you are sheltering-in-place or away from your home for a day or more, your pets will need essential supplies. **See reverse side** for a detailed checklist.

KNOW WHAT TO DO AS A DISASTER APPROACHES

Warnings may be issued days, hours or even minutes in advance. At first hint of disaster, act to protect your pets:

- Check that your pet disaster supplies are ready to go
- Bring all your pets inside and close the doors so that you don't have to search for them at the last minute. Place them in carriers if a threat is imminent.
- Make sure your pets are wearing collars or harnesses with up-to-date identification and contact information. Temporary tags or adhesive tape will work in a pinch.
- **You may not be home when an evacuation is ordered.** Make arrangements with a trusted neighbor or pet caregiver who will be willing to safely retrieve your animals and meet you at a prearranged location.

NEIGHBORHOOD PET PREPAREDNESS PLAN

Plan with your neighbors to rescue neighborhood animals in case residents are unable to return home to their pets. Instructions for **Neighborhood Pet Coordinators** and related information can be found in the comprehensive "**Pet Preparedness Packet**" on the OAS website at:

www.oaklandanimalservices.org/resources/disaster-preparedness

The "Pet Preparedness Packet" contains in-depth information on emergency preparedness for many types of animals (dogs, cats, birds, rabbits, reptiles, fish, horses, etc.), first aid for pets, Animal Services information and much more.



PET DISASTER SUPPLIES KIT CHECKLIST



Just as you do with your family's emergency Go-Bag kits, prepare the basics for your pets' survival during an emergency, especially food and water. Consider having two kits; one for sheltering-in-place and another portable version for an evacuation. **Review and rotate contents regularly to ensure freshness.** Store items in sturdy containers that can be easily carried (e.g. duffel bags or covered containers) and keep them in an accessible place.

FOOD - store food each pet is used to in an airtight, waterproof container

- at least one week's supply
- food dish
- spoon/scoop
- can opener



WATER - specifically for pets (in addition to water for humans)

- at least one week's supply
- water dish
- water purifying tablets (optional)



MEDICATIONS - keep an extra supply of medicines your pets take regularly, in waterproof containers



IDENTIFICATION - your pets should always wear their collar with an ID and rabies tag

- have extra ID tags
- temporary tags** on which you can write changes to contact information are good to have on-hand



MICROCHIPPING and enrolling pets in a **recovery database** is strongly recommended to help ID and recover them if separated – make sure your contact information is current!



IMPORTANT RECORDS - make copies of the following and store in a waterproof plastic bag:

- pet registration
- adoption papers
- vaccination records
- medical records / prescriptions
- vet and emergency numbers



PHOTO OF YOU AND YOUR PET TOGETHER - if you and your pet become separated in an emergency, this will help you document ownership and help others to assist in identifying your pet. Include details about species, breed, age, sex, color and distinguishing characteristics



PROTECTION - it's important to prepare to confine animals during a disaster. Even if your pet normally stays close to you, **it may panic and try to run away during times of intense stress!**

- have sturdy, safe and comfortable crates or carriers large enough for your pets to stand, turn around and lie down in
- a well-fitting harness is preferred for handling and securing pets
- a chain leash is preferred so your animal can't chew through it and escape



SANITATION

- litter
- litter box
- poop scoop
- waste bags
- newspapers
- paper towels
- disinfectant, for example: unscented, plain household chlorine bleach diluted 9:1 parts water to bleach



PET FIRST AID KIT - talk to your veterinarian about what is most appropriate for your pet's emergency medical needs. Most kits should include:

- cotton bandage rolls
- bandage tape
- scissors
- latex gloves
- antibiotic ointment
- isopropyl alcohol
- saline solution
- muzzle
- Pet First Aid book
- flea and tick prevention



FAMILIAR ITEMS - your pet's favorite toys, treats, bedding to help reduce their stress



FOR MORE INFORMATION see the City of Oakland website for a list of links to additional resources on pet preparedness: www.oaklandca.gov/topics/i-want-to-prepare-my-pet

OCP&R is a program of the Oakland Firesafe Council | www.oaklandfiresafecouncil.org

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