

# Pet Preparedness



September is National Preparedness Month. Planning what to do before a disaster strikes is the best protection for you and your family. Addressing the need of family pets in emergency plans will help you respond to an emergency. These simple steps will help you prepare your pet if disaster strikes.

## Before a Disaster

Not all shelters will allow pets  
*Plan ahead by contacting your local emergency manager to see if you will be allowed to evacuate with your pets to designated shelters.*

Make arrangements with friends or relatives  
*Ask people outside your immediate area if they would be able to shelter you and your pet - or just your pet - if necessary.*

Plan for when you're not home  
*Make arrangements in advance for someone you trust to take your pet if you are away during a disaster or evacuation*



Assemble an emergency kit for your pet  
*Prepare a kit for your pet(s) so evacuations or sheltering in place go smoothly.*

## Pet Emergency Kit

If a disaster strikes, you may not have access to food, water or electricity for several days. Preparing an emergency kit for your family, which includes your pets, is an important step in keeping everyone safe and healthy during a disaster.



**Leash, Collar or Harness with ID Tags and License attached**



**Recent Picture** of you and your pet together



**Medications and Medical Records** (to include rabies and other shot records)



**Crate or Pet Carrier**



**Food and Water** (5 days for each animal), **bowls, manual can opener** (if your animals eats wet food)



**Plastic bags/litter** for cleaning up after your pet



**Familiar items: favorite Toys, Treats, and Bedding**



**Pet First Aid Kit**

## During a Disaster

If you shelter in place, do it safely. Identify a safe area of your home where you can all stay together.

**Separate Dogs and Cats** as stress may affect behavior

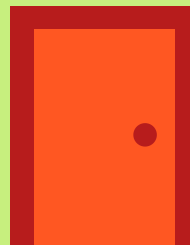
**Close off or eliminate unsafe nooks and crannies** where frightened cats may try to hide.



**Bring pets inside immediately**



**Have extra newspapers** for sanitary reasons



## Rules if you evacuate:

**Rule 1:**

If it isn't safe for you, it is not safe for your pets. Pets left behind in a disaster can easily be injured, lost or killed. Make plans for ALL pets during natural disasters.

**Rule 2:**

Evacuate early. Don't wait for mandatory evacuation orders. Evacuating before conditions become severe will keep everyone safer and the process less stressful.

For more information on preparing you and your pets for emergencies please visit: