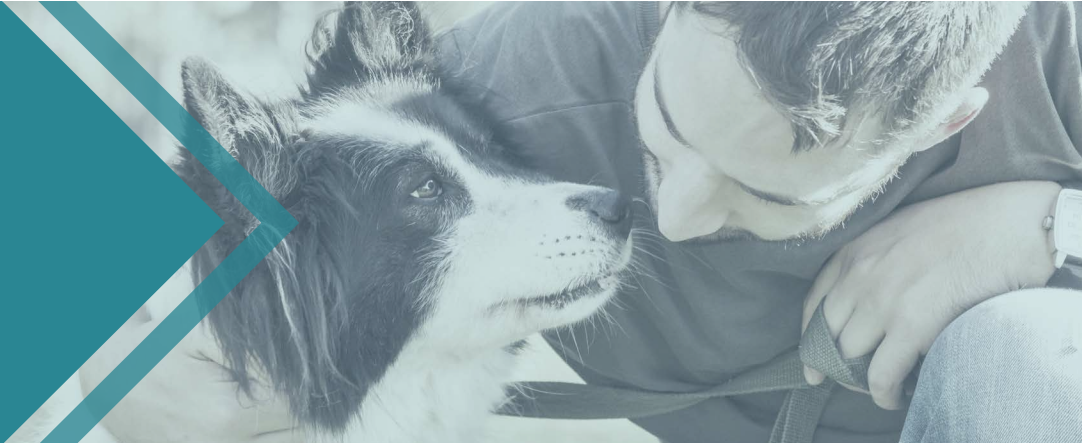


PET NATURAL DISASTER CHECKLIST

AND EMERGENCY PLAN



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If there's ever a natural disaster or emergency requiring evacuation in the area where you live, you'll want to be ready to keep not only yourself safe, but your dogs, cats and other pets, too. You can practice emergency readiness by doing drills during which you pack all needed supplies.

Be aware that your pets' behavior during and after an emergency evacuation may be different from the normal daily behavior you know and expect. Pets may panic as the danger nears and become lost before they are safely evacuated. Remember, that one of the most important things you can do to help your pets during an emergency is to stay calm yourself.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS FOR PETS CHECKLIST

- Put your pets' ID on their collars: your name, address and phone number. Since cell phones and land lines may be down for a while, consider adding the phone number of a relative or friend who lives outside of your area.
- Have your pets micro-chipped and be sure to register the chip in your name and provide additional phone numbers.
- Have copies of your pets' microchip information and contact information for the microchip company in the event your pets get lost.
- Have current photos of your pets in case one of them is lost.
- Buy carriers appropriate for your pets' sizes; the carriers should be easy to transport.
- Always have on hand at least a one-month supply of your pets' medications.
- Make sure your pets' vaccination records are current and you have copies.

Source: bestfriends.org

- Periodically check your pets' collars to make sure they fit properly and tags are securely fastened. If the collar can slip over a pet's head when you pull on it, you may lose him if he panics and pulls back from you.
- Choose potential evacuation destinations – for example, homes of relatives or friends, pet-friendly hotels – in different directions so you'll know where you're going in the event of a disaster.
- Periodically print out a list of phone numbers for animal shelters, animal hospitals and hotels that are pet-friendly.
- Take an animal first-aid class if one is offered in your community and put together a first-aid kit for pets.
- Put all the information mentioned above (copies of your pets' microchip information; current photos of your pets; pets' vaccination records and contact information; list of phone numbers for animal shelters, animal hospitals and hotels) in one easily accessible place in your house or garage so you can get these items at a moment's notice for a quick exit.
- A storage container with a roll of paper towels, a pet-friendly cleaner, trash bags, small poop bags, a small bag of litter, litter pan, pet first aid kit, leashes, a pair of heavy duty gloves, a blanket, two towels, two bowls, and a can opener and spoons.

This means buying duplicates of a lot of items you may already have and use, but having these items in one location will save time when you are in a hurry to leave your home. Last minute items to grab:

- Food, canned and/or dry
- Gallon jug of water
- Treats or snacks

EMERGENCY READINESS WITH ANIMALS

You can practice emergency readiness by doing drills during which you pack all needed supplies, including human supplies.

Be aware that your pets' behavior during and after an emergency evacuation may be different from the normal daily behavior you know and expect. Pets may panic as the danger nears and become lost before they are safely evacuated. If you do end up in the middle of a disaster, bring your pets inside and keep them inside. Block off rooms in your house to keep all your pets in one area, so if you need to evacuate, you can get your pets into their carriers quickly. Keep pets on lead if they must go out to eliminate. Remember, too, that one of the most important things you can do to help your pets during an emergency is to stay calm yourself.

Finally, watch out for hazards during the evacuation, such as chemicals on the ground or in floodwater, broken glass, sharp metal, hot surfaces, or downed, exposed electric wires.

Find an animal lost in times of disaster at FindMyLostPet.com