



## Emergency and Disaster Planning with Pets

### Disaster planning:

- Research and plan ahead of time
- Collect Important Documents
- Emergency First Aid kit
- Evacuation kit
- Share with others

### Research and Plan

- Take a look at the local emergency vet clinics in your area. Be sure to note mileage and which clinics keep antivenom in case of a snake bite.
- Check evacuation routes and make a plan for an evacuation location. This could be going to stay with family or friends. It could also be planning to stay at a local shelter or traveling up to 100 miles to stay in a hotel.
- Check local government emergency plans to see if there are shelters in your area that allow pets. Some cities have plans that include you staying at a shelter while your pet stays at a different location to be cared for by other. Know what is available and try to plan ahead.
- If you plan to stay with friends or family, contact them ahead of time to ensure it's okay for you and your pets to stay with them.
- If you plan to stay at a hotel, check locations and hotel chains to see which ones are pet friendly.
- Make sure your pet is microchipped and complete registration in case you get separated.
- Make sure you always have enough prescription medication if bad weather is expected.

### Collect Important Documents

Keep in mind that your phone may lose signal or the battery may die which can make it difficult to pull up the following information during an emergency situation. It's much easier to have a paper copy available for use.

- Paper copies of vaccination records
- Notecard with local vet emergency clinics and note who has antivenom
- Notecard for evacuation location with vet clinic contact information
- Poison control numbers in case your pet ingests something toxic to them.
- Keep a copy of any prescription medications your pets have in case they need to be refilled

### Emergency First Aid Kit

Unfortunately, there is no ambulance system for our beloved fur babies. This means it is important to keep things on hand to help them during an emergency. You may have to triage your little one and drive them to the closest emergency clinic. It is recommended to have a first aid kit for emergencies and a separate evacuation kit. Both should be checked annually and items rotated as needed. The below items are suggestions:

- Gauze
- Nonstick bandages
- Towel
- Milk of magnesia or activated charcoal to absorb poison
- Hydrogen Peroxide
- Pet Thermometer (must be flexible)



- Eye dropper
- Syringe
- Muzzle
- Leash
- Scissors with a blunt end
- Tweezers
- Benadryl (only administer if instructed by a vet)
- Flashlight

## Evacuation Kit

- Documentation from your research and planning
- Important documents
- Emergency First Aid Kit
- Medication
- Backup collar with ID tag and harness or leash
- Travel bag, crate or sturdy carrier for each pet
- Grooming items- pet shampoo, brush, nail clippers
- A picture of you and your pet together- If you become separated, a picture will help you document ownership
- Potty needs- litter box, litter, puppy pads, poop bags
- Pet blanket
- Toys or comfort items
- Food and water for at least a week (can opener if needed)
- Water and food dishes
- Flea, tick or heartworm medication
- Cleaning supplies for accidents

## Share with others

- Let your family or close friends know what the plan is so they can help if you can't make it home to get your pet in time
- Talk to your neighbors and find a buddy who can help with evacuation if possible.
- In home pet sitters
  - Make sure they know where your evacuation kit is so they can help evacuate your pet quickly
  - Plan for an emergency contact to help if you are out of town
  - The pet sitter should have access to copies of your important documents
- Boarding facilities
  - Speak with them to understand what their evacuation plan is and how it will affect you and your pet
  - The facility should have access to copies of your important documents

Finally, be sure you stay up to date on things happening in our area. Make sure you have enough gas in your vehicle, plenty of water and supplies if there is a risk that will cause an evacuation. Proper preparation and planning help you evacuate quickly and handle emergency situations more easily. Our pets trust us but also know when something is wrong so staying as calm as possible and being there to comfort them is important for everyone's well being.