



Your pet is depending on you ...

Show them you care. Be prepared.

Natural and man-made disasters can strike anytime, anywhere. Taking a few minutes now to prepare will save you and your pet hours, days, even weeks of anguish and heartache in the event of a disaster. Here are a few steps you can take to prepare to care for your pets in an emergency.

- **Take your pet with you.** If it is unsafe for you, it is unsafe for your pet. Once you leave, it may be days before you will be allowed to return home. Pets left behind to fend for themselves can easily become victims of exposure, starvation, predators, contaminated food or water, or accidents.
- **Find a safe place.** Most evacuation shelters will not accept pets, except for service animals. Make arrangements ahead of time to ensure your pet has a safe place to stay. Create a list of "Pet Friendly" hotels and motels outside your immediate area. Be sure to inquire about size and number of animals allowed or if "No Pet" policies can be waived under the circumstances. Check with friends and relatives living outside the area to care for your pets until you are allowed to return home. Animal boarding facilities will fill up fast. Have a list of numbers well outside your immediate area on file.
- **Remember ID tags.** Your pet should always be wearing identification. An ID tag is your pet's ticket home. Make sure that the information is current and legible. Visit your veterinarian to have your pet microchipped, a permanent form of identification.
- **In case you are not home.** Make arrangements for a friend or neighbor to evacuate your pets and meet at a designated location. Make sure they have your work and cell phone numbers, as well as a phone number for a friend or relative living outside the area.
- **Should your pet become lost.** Start with your local shelter. However, area shelters will be overburdened and may rely on a network of shelters, boarding facilities, and foster families outside your area to care for your pet until you can be reunited. If possible, check the websites of your local shelter and other organizations involved with the rescue operation.

Assemble a pet disaster kit.

Place items in a portable container (such as a pet carrier) in a convenient location. Your kit should include:

Enough food, water, and litter for 1 week.

Collapsible food and water bowls.

Sturdy leashes, collar, harnesses and cat carriers to prevent escape.

Vaccination records, medication, current photo of your pet and a first aid kit.

Toys, blankets and bedding.

An information list regarding feeding instructions, medications, veterinarian's name and phone number, should someone else need to care for your pets.