

ALONE AT HOME PET SERVICES

WHERE DROOL IS COOL

November 2024

NATURAL DISASTER PET PREPARATION



Since September 24th, we've witnessed the destructive rampage of Mother Nature in Florida, the Southeast and up the East Coast with hurricanes Helene and Milton. Areas never before affected are devastated beyond recognition. Unfortunately, the hurricane season is not over until the end of November.

But whether it's a hurricane, flood, earthquake, wildfire, avalanche, mudslide, tornado, severe weather or even a drought, each one **poses imminent harm** to people, property **and your pets**.

Remember, your pets are depending on you to keep them safe and your best protection against natural disasters is preparation!

Disaster Planning: What TO DO in Advance!

- >> Evacuate as early as possible and take your pet with you! If you are scared, imagine how your pet feels! How are they going to save themselves if you leave them in danger? Also don't put first responders at greater risk to save your abandoned pet.
- Plan for lodging before you evacuate, especially if you have larger dogs, unusual pets or a lot of pets. Websites often contain inaccurate information, so call the motels/hotels and even shelters ahead first! Never assume they will allow you and your pets because of a natural disaster. Always have a confirmed plan and route before heading to safety.
- Have emergency contacts for friends, neighbors or relatives programmed into your phone and reach out to them if you cannot get home in time for your pet(s) or cannot have them where you've taken shelter.
- Fully charge and carry portable battery chargers or solar-powered chargers (also known as battery packs or power banks) for when the power goes out. (CNN: The best portable chargers of 2024.)
- Double-check your pet's microchip is still registered with your provider and ensure your pet is wearing a collar with external ID tags in case they get separated from you.
- Pack an extra leash (or two) in case a panicked pet breaks one, and also bring photos if your pet becomes lost.

HOW TO RECEIVE EMERGENCY ALERTS



Ensure your mobile device **CAN** receive **Wi**reless **E**mergency **A**lerts (or WEAs) for up-to-date information and alerts. They may also be called **Government Alerts** or **Emergency Alert Messages**.

These alerts are like text messages with a unique sound and vibration (repeated twice) to get your attention.

In advance of a natural disaster or emergency:

- Ensure your mobile device is WEA-capable (older cell phones may not have this feature).
- Some cell phones may require **you to enable** emergency alerts.
-)) If you're not sure what to do, contact your provider or visit a local store.

In addition, download the <u>FEMA Mobile App</u> to receive real-time alerts, find a nearby shelter or Disaster Recovery Center and learn how to apply for, and receive, FEMA assistance.



Disclaimer: This information does not constitute professional veterinary advice. **Always** work with your regular licensed vet when it comes to **your** dog and their specific medical history, overall condition, age and breed.



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COOL STUFF FOR THE DOG LOVER THE BEST EMERGENCY KIT IS READY BEFORE IT'S NEEDED!

But what if you're not sure what to include or just want the convenience of a ready-to-use emergency kit?

Local pet stores, Amazon, Chewy and specialty stores (like SOSProducts.com) have what you need, including the "In Case of Emergency Decals" (shown to the right) for your home windows, just in case you cannot reach your pets before disaster strikes.



In addition, businesses like <u>MorePrepared.com</u>, <u>ReadyAmerica.com</u> and even <u>TractorSupply.com</u> stock emergency kits for dogs, cats and their people! **Have** peace of mind before a disaster hits!



WHEN YOU NEED A VET DURING A NATURAL DISASTER

Anything can - and will - happen during a natural disaster, including an unexpected illness or injury. So once again, be prepared **BEFORE** a disaster strikes with these tips from Dogster below.

- Discuss best emergency options with your vet in advance, especially if your pet has a chronic illness, allergies or severe anxiety.
- Evacuate to a SAFE region to access vet assistance.
- Program your phone with televet services (and carry a printed list too). Do your research beforehand and identify the best online vet services with the help of this 2024 list of options and reviews.



YOGURT & PUMPKIN SWIRL FOR MAN'S BEST FRIEND!

This simple, two-ingredient recipe is packed FULL of valuable **nutrients**, **probiotics**, **calcium**, **protein** and **fiber** for a happy dog and tummy!

Even better, this recipe can be served **fresh** on top of your dog's food or **frozen** into fun dog shapes!

INGREDIENTS

- ~ 1 cup plain unsweetened yogurt
- ~ 1/2 cup unsweetened pumpkin purée

Combine the ingredients; swirl loosely for a marbled effect (as pictured above) or mix thoroughly. To freeze, pour into silicone molds or ice cube trays.

VARIATIONS

- Add peanut butter for a richer taste or a dollop in the center of each treat before freezing.
- Toss some blueberries into the fresh swirl or on top of the treats before freezing.
- Stir a tablespoon of quick oats into the yogurt and pumpkin mixture before serving/freezing.

(Image/Recipe Courtesy: MyDogRecipe.com)

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Certified Veterinary Technician & Certified Professional Pet Sitter