



THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS®

A disaster, large or small, can happen at any time.

Is your family prepared?

You may face a number of emergencies or disasters in your lifetime - fire, flooding, windstorm, ice or snowstorm, power outage, or exposure to hazardous materials, to name just a few. Emergency planning is crucial - the steps you take to prepare your loved ones and pets could save their lives.



Photos courtesy of FEMA

*If you evacuate,  
bring your pets with you!*

If it isn't safe for you, it isn't safe for your pets. Plan for the worst-case scenario. If you think you may be gone for only a day, assume that you may not be allowed to return for at least a week. If you think there will only be minor damage or disruption in services, assume that there may be major damage and indefinite loss of local lifelines. Whatever the situation, your pets are not safe left alone. They may become trapped, or escape and be exposed to numerous life-threatening hazards which may lead to injury, illness, or death.

Don't wait, prepare to evacuate. Start preparing your family and pets for evacuation as soon as you have been warned of a possible disaster. Have your pets and supplies ready to go; it will be less stressful on all of you if you are not rushed when it is time to leave. When recommendations for evacuation have been announced, follow the instructions of local and state officials.

## *At-Home Sheltering*

Should a disaster occur, or appear imminent, and emergency officials recommend that you stay in your home, it's crucial that you keep your pets with you. Always bring them inside at the first sign or warning of danger - storms are a good example. Keep your Evac-Pack (see below) and supplies close at hand. Your pets may become stressed during the in-house confinement, so you may consider crating them for safety and comfort. This will also make it easier if evacuation becomes necessary. Never evacuate and leave your pets behind in a crate or carrier; they will be rendered helpless until you return or someone else reaches them.

### *Evac-Pack*

Your Evac-Pack should be kept as easily accessible and close to your exit as possible. Be sure it's clearly labeled, easy to carry, and water-resistant. Everyone in your family, including your buddies, should know where this pack is kept. Items to consider keeping in or near your pack are:



*Harness, carriers, crates, and cages* - Keep an extra harness and leash in your pack. Harnesses are recommended for safety and security. You should also have a crate, cage or carrier for each of your pets. With a permanent marker write the pet's name, your name, and emergency contact information on the carrier and the extra harness. If your pet has behavioral or medical issues, you should post that information on their carrier and harness as well.

*Food* - Keep three to seven days' worth of your pet's food in a plastic, airtight container near or in your pack. Rotate food every two months. If your pet eats canned food, store pull-top canned food. Food that needs refrigeration is not recommended, as you may not have the ability to keep it at a safe temperature.

*Water* - It is always a good idea to have drinking water on hand for possible disruptions in your potable water supply. Store at least 7 days' worth of drinking water for each person and pet in a cool, dark place and replace every two months. When warned of an impending storm or disruption in water service, fill your tub and sink with potable water.



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### *Evac - Pack*

*Sanitation* - Keep a roll of paper towels, liquid dish soap, and small bottle of household bleach in or near your pack. Also keep a package of garbage bags for clean-up.

*First Aid Kit* - Ask your veterinarian for recommendations about what to include in your first aid kit. Prepackaged first aid kits and first aid manuals are available at pet supply stores and through the ASPCA at [www.asPCA.org](http://www.asPCA.org).

*Medical Records and Photographs* - Keep a copy of your pet's medical records, feeding and medication requirements, and recent photos of you and your pet together. Keep these in a zip lock bag in your pack.

### *Additional Supplies and Equipment*

- Extra water and food dishes. You can purchase collapsible dishes at your local pet supply store.
- Extra supply of pet's medications and vitamins. Replace when expired.
- Dogs: Long leash, yard stake, blanket, toys, treats, 7 days' worth of cage liner (i.e. newspaper)
- Cats: Pillowcase or evacksack, harness, leash, blanket, toys, small litter pan and scoopable litter.
- Birds: Catch net, heavy towel, cuttlebone, blanket or sheet to cover the cage, cage liner.
- Small animals: Salt lick, extra water bottle, small hide box or tube, 7 days' worth of bedding.
- Reptiles: Pillow case or evacksack, warming device (i.e. hot water bottle, heating pad), soaking dish.
- Your family emergency kit, to include: batteries, flashlights, radio (EAS and weather alert capable), human first aid kit, duct tape, multi-tool, tarp, rope, permanent marker, fluorescent spray paint, baby wipes, toilet paper, protective clothing & foot wear, extra cash, rescue whistle, blanket, important phone numbers, extra medications, copies of medical, mortgage, and insurance information.

### *Identification*

Cats, dogs, birds, and other large pets should always wear identification. A collar and tags, band, microchip, and tattoo are all forms of identification that will help increase the chances of your pets' return home should they become separated from you. Remember to keep your contact information up to date on tags and microchip database services.

## *Planning & Preparation Tips*

**Tip #1:** Talk to your neighbors, friends, relatives, and sitters about creating a “buddy system.”

Disasters don’t wait to occur until you are at home; it’s important that someone else is available to evacuate your children and pets if you are unable to do so. Show this trusted person your evacuation plan, location of your Evac-Pack (a durable, easy-to-carry bag or box containing emergency supplies), set of keys, and important contacts. Make sure they are comfortable handling your pets. Build an emergency phone tree, and plan a specific location (rally point) where you or a relative would meet them.

**Tip #2:** Make sure you have a back-up shelter to go to that’s outside of your immediate vicinity.

Ask relatives and friends NOW if they would be willing to take you and your pets in should you need to evacuate. If you have multiple pets, you may need to make arrangements with several friends to ensure coverage. Look into pet-friendly hotels, veterinary hospitals, boarding kennels, and animal shelters outside of your local area. Whenever possible, call and/or visit their facilities and ask if they would accommodate your pets should you need to evacuate. Add their 24-hour phone numbers to your list of emergency contacts.

**Tip #3:** Know your local emergency response agencies. Get to know your local emergency response agencies, talk to them about family emergency preparedness and planning, ask them about response and notification protocol. Know the phone numbers and locations of your local animal control agency, humane society/SPCA, and emergency veterinary hospital. Post these numbers at home where everyone will see them, and place a copy in your Evac-Pack. Ask your veterinarian and pet sitter if they have an evacuation plan, should your pets be in their care when disaster strikes.

**Tip #4:** Place emergency “Pets Inside” stickers on your front and back doors. Write the number and types of pets in your home on each sticker. Include a phone number where response and rescue agencies would be able to reach you, a relative, or your “buddy”. Should you evacuate with your pets, if time allows, write “EVACUATED” across the stickers. Remember to replace stickers when you return home.