

Disaster Preparedness for Pets

General

- Keep a collar, current license and up-to-date ID tags on your pet at all times. Consider having your pet micro-chipped, if not already done.
- Keep an updated list of trusted neighbors who could assist your animals in case of an emergency.
- Make sure latches on birdcages are tight and secure.
- Fasten down aquariums on low stands or tables.

Make a Disaster “Go Bag” for each pet

Store in an accessible place, in sturdy containers. Items to include, depending on your pet:

- Sturdy leash and harness, and a crate or carrier
 - Pillowcase or box are options for cats and other small animals if crate not available.
- Medications, medical and immunization records, phone number of veterinarian, first aid kit
- 3 day (or more) supply of food and water, non-spill bowls, manual can opener
- Cat litter and cat box
- Current photos of your pets (in case pets get lost)
- Pet beds and toys, if easily transported
- Muzzles for dogs
- Portable fencing or baby gates

As a Disaster Approaches

- Pay attention to disaster alerts and warnings. Take steps to locate and protect your pet at the first sign of a disaster.
- Call to confirm emergency shelter arrangements for you and your pets.
- Check your pet disaster supplies and make sure they are ready to go.
- Bring all pets into the home so you don't have to search for them if you must leave quickly
- Attach the name and number of your emergency phone to your pets collar/ID tag.
- If possible, arrange in advance for a neighbor or pet sitter to take your pets if you are not at home.

Tips to plan for your pets in an evacuation

- Remember that animals react differently under stress. They may panic, hide and try to escape, or may bite or scratch, even if that is not their normal behavior.
- Outside your home and in the car, keep dogs securely leashed or in their crate. Transport cats in carrier, box or pillow case.
- Don't leave your pets unattended anywhere they can run off. Pets may panic, hide, try to escape, bite or scratch.
- Don't allow your pets to roam loose. Familiar landmarks and smells may be gone, and your pet could become disoriented and lost.
- If your pet is lost, contact the nearest animal shelter to report your pet missing as soon as possible. When it is safe, return to your neighborhood to search and distribute “lost pet” posters.

Do your best to locate all your animals and keep them with you. If you must go to an emergency shelter, be aware that some shelters will only allow service animals for persons with disabilities. In a large scale disaster, animal shelters will be set up close to human shelters when possible.

Birds:

- Transport birds in a secure travel cage or carrier.
- In cold weather wrap a blanket around the cage; warm up car before putting birds into it.
- During warm weather carry a mister to mist your bird's feathers.
- Do not put water inside cage during transport.
- Provide birds with a few slices of fruit and vegetables having high water content.
- Have a photo identification and leg bands.
- Keep the carrier in a quiet area, and don't let the birds out.

Reptiles:

- Snakes can be transported in a pillowcase but must be placed in more secure housing upon reaching your destination.
- Carry the food your snake will need.
- Take a large heating pad and water bowl for soaking.
- For transport of house lizards follow the directions for birds.

If you must leave pets behind:

- Do not leave them chained outdoors or roaming free.
- Bring them inside and leave them in a room with no windows but with adequate ventilation (laundry room, garage, etc). Put cats and dog in separate rooms, even if they usually get along.
- Leave plenty of water in a large container that cannot be tipped over.
- Leave plenty of dry food, ideally in timed feeders to prevent your pet from overeating
- Inform animal rescue workers of your pet's status. Put a sticker on your front door or use chalk, paint or marker to write the number and type of pets in your residence. Include their location in your unit and the date that you are evacuated.

After a disaster, give your pets plenty of time to get back into their routines once they return home. A disaster and evacuation is stressful for everyone!

For more pet information see:

- Humane Society
<https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/make-disaster-plan-your-pets>
- US Ready.gov
<https://www.ready.gov/pets>
- ASPCA
<https://www.aspca.org/pet-care/general-pet-care/disaster-preparedness>

"Tualatin Neighborhood Ready!"

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