

IMPORTANT: READ BEFORE A DISASTER

PET EMERGENCY GUIDE



EMERGENCY ZONE



Many people leave
their animals behind
when they evacuate,
or leave them outside
when taking shelter in a
disaster. Remember: If
it's not safe for you, it's
not safe for them!

Like so many people, you may consider your pet a member of your family. The bond between humans and animals is so strong that people will risk their lives for them in a disaster.

Your pets depend on you for survival, so it is important for you to include them in your disaster and evacuation plans. If you have not made plans for your pets, you may be ordered to evacuate without them, or you may not be able to find a place that accepts pets. Pets (except service animals) are usually not allowed in emergency shelters.

This guidebook will help you prepare by making the right arrangements, gathering the right materials, and arming yourself with knowledge.

Get Prepared Now

Seem overwhelming? Here's a master checklist to get you started.



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Know Basic First Aid and
Keep Vaccinations Current

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ID and Documentation

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Pet Emergency Kit

If you don't already have an Emergency Zone pet kit, and would rather take the time to assemble your own, start with the following:

- Three day supply of food and water
- Extra collar and leash
- Food and water dishes
- Toys or other comfort items
- Pet waste bags
- Signal whistle
- Light stick
- Pet First Aid Kit (see next page)
- Treats
- Photo of your pet
- Newspaper, puppy pads, or litter box
- Pet carrier
- Extra blanket and pillow cases
- For sheltering in place, add a two weeks supply of food, water, medications, etc.



Pet First Aid Kit

As with people, there are some ways to give basic first aid to an animal when no professional is available. To administer the basic first aid on p.11, you will need the following:

- **Tweezers**
- **Trauma Scissors**
- **Self Adhesive Bandage Roll**
- **Gauze Pads**
- **Cold Pack**
- **Splint Sticks**
- **Cleaning Wipes**
- **Adhesive Bandages**
- **Medications**
- **Muzzle (if needed)**



Remember

This book is important to keep with your kit, too, if you have filled out the information and records.

Pet Emergency Plan

A pet emergency plan is an extension of your own emergency and evacuation plans. To learn how to make an emergency plan, visit emergencyzone.com. Use the next section, “During the Emergency,” to help you fill out the following.

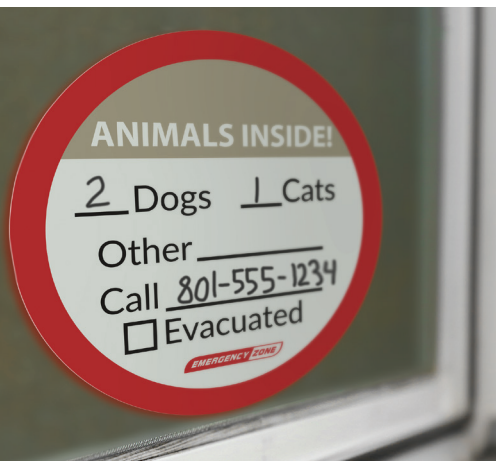
If I am not at home during the emergency, then...

Who can I call?

If we need to evacuate, then I will bring my pet to...

If that's not available, then I will bring my pet(s) to...

Will there be any special considerations for my pet(s)?



If you are unable to bring your pets to safety, keeping a window sticker posted that notifies rescuers can help.

During the Emergency

As helpful as adrenaline can be in life-threatening situations, your best bet is to remain calm. This will help yourself and your pet. You can do this!

What to Expect

Naturally, when your pet sees that something unusual and distressing is happening, it will get nervous. Between that and possibly having to eat strange foods, your pet may experience digestive problems. This is why we listed so many different ways to catch and cleanup the mess in your kit. Also, many animals are more inclined to becoming aggressive when they are fearful, so you will need to be extra careful to keep them on a leash or in a carrier.

Get your pet well accustomed to its traveling cage/kennel/carrier well beforehand. Try draping a cloth over it or providing a comfort toy. Our instinct is to express our full outpouring of empathy and coddle them in a way that shows just how much we pity them. But this reaffirms to them that the situation

is bad, and can make them more nervous. Owners of show animals have learned that the best way is to reassure them in tones and motions that show confidence (it might work on yourself, too!).

Bring your pets inside. If it's not safe for you out there, it's not safe for them. Be prepared to evacuate.

It is important to keep them on a sturdy leash when they go outside. In an emergency, animals can get suddenly spooked by something like gunshots or thunder and run off. Normally they are good at finding their way back home, but in such a panic they can lose track of their scent markers.

If You Are Not at Home

You will have to designate someone who lives nearby to look after your pets in an emergency. You might be able to just call someone you trust nearby when the time comes, but the safest thing to do is make sure beforehand it is someone who is home when you are away, and have them review and understand your emergency plan.

If You Have to Evacuate

Grab your full emergency kit. Remember:

- **Proof of ownership**
- **Pet carrier and leash**
- **Vaccination records, picture of pet**
- **Litter box or cleanup materials**
- **Medications**

Go to the predetermined place that will house your pet (see below), then head to your designated evacuation shelter. Don't forget to have an emergency plan for yourself and the rest of your family.

If the weather is cold, bring an extra blanket and wipe any ice melting chemicals, which are poisonous, off your pets' paws.

Housing Your Pet

To find out where you will be able to bring your pets in an emergency, you are going to have to do some research and a little calling around. At this point it should be obvious that **if you wait to do this until the emergency, it may be too**

late. We have provided a great list of contacts and resources on p. 17.

Don't forget to learn about:

- **If your community has a pet friendly evacuation shelter**
- **Friends or family that live just out of the evacuation area that would be willing to take them in**
- **Pet friendly motels (or motels that would allow pets in emergencies)**



Basic Pet First Aid

Get a First-Aid kit that is designed for pets. At the first sign of an injury it is a good idea to muzzle your pet. Try and keep your pet warm and quiet. If it is a severe injury or poisoning, take your pet to the vet immediately.

Bleeding

If it is a small cut. Press a clean gauze pad over the cut area. Keep pressure on the area until the blood begins to clot.

For severe bleeding. If the bleeding is on the legs, apply a tourniquet above the wounded area. Press a clean gauze pad over the cut area and apply pressure. Loosen the tourniquet every 20 minutes for 20 seconds.

If the bleeding is not on the legs, cover the area with a gauze pad and self-adhesive bandage wrap. Apply pressure.

In either case, get your pet to the vet as soon as possible.

Fractures

If it is an emergency and a vet is not available, you can try and set the fracture yourself. Line up the bones. Using a splint stick and self-adhesive bandage, wrap the fractured area. Keep your pet calm and quiet.

Burns

Apply a cold pack to the burned area.

Poisoning

If your pet has consumed a poisonous substance or if its skin or eyes are exposed to a poisonous substance, read the label on the product and follow the instructions recommended if a person was poisoned. If the information isn't available, call the animal poison control hot line at 888-426-4435 or take your pet to the vet immediately. When calling poison control, gather information including breed, age, and weight of your pet along with the exposed toxin and problems your pet is experiencing.

VACCINATION RECORDS

Date

Vaccination Type

AUTHORIZATION FOR TREATMENT

I give permission to provide emergency medical care to my pet in my absence according to the instructions below. I agree to pay the fees for such professional veterinary services.

Pet's Name

Breed/Type

Owner's Name

Owner's Phone Number

Maximum Amount for Services

Special Instructions

Signature

Date

ID and Documentation

In your emergency kit, you will want to have assembled veterinary and proof of ownership records. Make sure identification tags are secure on the pets' collars.

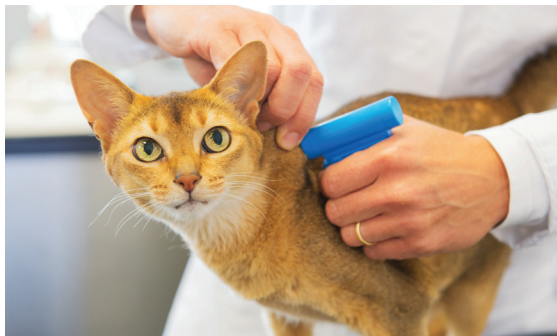
Owner's Address

Vet Contact Info

Out of Town Contact

Consider getting a microchip.

Pet Microchip #



PET INFORMATION

Pet's Name

Behavior/Temperament

Breed/Type

Age

Sex

**Distinguishing
Characteristics**

**Feeding/Sleeping/
Playing Schedule**

**Medical Conditions/
Medications**

Contacts and Resources

Pet Friendly Travel

www.petfriendlytravel.com/pet_shelters

Humane Society

1-202-452-1100 www.hsus.org

ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals)

1-212-876-7700 www.aspca.org

ASPCA Poison Control

1-888-426-4435

To find out where your nearest veterinarian is:

American Animal Hospital Association

1-800-883-6301

Place a picture of you with your pet