

Pet Readiness for Natural Disasters Making pets a part of your emergency planning



Introduction

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- ◉ Veterinary Assistant Safe Care Feline Spay/Neuter Clinic
- ◉ Former Vet Hospital Practice Manager
- ◉ 6yrs of veterinary surgical assisting
- ◉ Certified Instructor-Trainer
- ◉ U.S. Marine Corps veteran
- ◉ Life-long animal advocate

Why prepare?

- Emergencies come in many forms, and they may require anything from a brief absence from your home to permanent evacuation.
- Each type of disaster requires different measures to keep your pets safe, so the best thing you can do for yourself and your pets is to be prepared.

Step 1: Get a Rescue Alert Sticker

- This easy-to-use sticker will let people know that pets are inside your home.
- Make sure it is visible to rescue workers (we recommend placing it on or near your front door), and that it includes the types and number of pets in your home as well as the name and number of your veterinarian.
- If you must evacuate with your pets, and if time allows, write **“EVACUATED”** across the stickers.



Step 2: Arrange a Safe Haven

- ◉ Arrange a safe haven for your pets in the event of evacuation.
- ◉ DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PETS BEHIND. Remember, if it isn't safe for you, it isn't safe for your pets.
- ◉ They may become trapped or escape and be exposed to numerous life-threatening hazards.
- ◉ Note that not all shelters accept pets, so it is imperative that you have determined where you will bring your pets ahead of time:

Step 2: Arrange a Safe Haven

- Contact your veterinarian for a list of preferred boarding kennels and facilities.
- Ask your local animal shelter if they provide emergency shelter or foster care for pets.
- Identify hotels or motels outside of your immediate area that accept pets.
- Ask friends and relatives outside your immediate area if they would be willing to take in your pet.

Step 3: Choose "Designated Caregivers"

- This step will take considerable time and thought. When choosing a temporary caregiver, consider someone who lives close to your residence.
- He or she should be someone who is generally home during the day while you are at work or has easy access to your home. A set of keys should be given to this trusted individual.
- This may work well with neighbors who have pets of their own—you may even swap responsibilities, depending upon who has accessibility.



Step 3: Choose "Designated Caregivers"



- ◉ When selecting a permanent caregiver, you'll need to consider other criteria.
- ◉ This is a person to whom you are entrusting the care of your pet in the event that something should happen to you.
- ◉ When selecting this "foster parent," consider people who have met your pet and have successfully cared for animals in the past.
- ◉ Be sure to discuss your expectations at length with a permanent caregiver, so he or she understands the responsibility of caring for your pet.

Step 4: Prepare Emergency Supplies and Traveling Kits



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- If you must evacuate your home in a crisis, plan for the worst-case scenario.
- Even if you think you may be gone for only a day, assume that you may not be allowed to return for several weeks.
- When recommendations for evacuation have been announced, follow the instructions of local and state officials.
- To minimize evacuation time, take these simple steps:

Step 4: Prepare Emergency Supplies and Traveling Kits

- Make sure all pets wear collars and tags with up-to-date identification information.
- Your pet's ID tag should contain their name, a telephone number and any urgent medical needs.
- Be sure to also write your pet's name, your name and contact information on your pet's carrier.

Step 4: Prepare Emergency Supplies and Traveling Kits

- Microchipping your pet is **strongly recommended** as a more permanent form of identification.
- A microchip is implanted under the skin in the animal's shoulder area, and can be read by a scanner at most animal shelters.
- Always bring pets indoors at the first sign or warning of a storm or disaster.
- Pets can become disoriented and wander away from home in a crisis.

Step 4: Prepare Emergency Supplies and Traveling Kits

- ◉ Store an emergency kit, carriers and/or leashes as close to an exit as possible.
- ◉ Make sure that everyone in the family knows where they are, and that the kit is clearly labeled and easy to carry.

Step 4: Prepare Emergency Supplies and Traveling Kits

- ◉ Items to consider keeping in or near your “Evac-Pack” include: Pet first-aid kit and guide book (ask your vet what to include)
- ◉ 3-7 days’ worth of canned (pop-top) or dry food (be sure to rotate every two months)
- ◉ Disposable litter trays (aluminum roasting pans are perfect)
- ◉ Litter or paper toweling
- ◉ Liquid dish soap and disinfectant

Step 4: Prepare Emergency Supplies and Traveling Kits

- ◉ Disposable garbage bags for clean-up
- ◉ Pet feeding dishes and water bowls
- ◉ Extra collar or harness as well as an extra leash
- ◉ Photocopies and/or USB of medical records and a waterproof container with a two-week supply of any medicine your pet requires
(Remember, food and medications need to be rotated out of your emergency kit—otherwise they may go bad or become useless)
- ◉ At least seven days' worth of bottled water for each person and pet (store in a cool, dry place and replace every two months)

Step 4: Prepare Emergency Supplies and Traveling Kits

- A traveling bag, crate or sturdy carrier, ideally one for each pet
- Flashlight
- Blanket
- Recent photos of your pets (in case you are separated and need to make “Lost” posters)
- Especially for cats: Pillowcase, toys, scoopable litter
- Especially for dogs: Extra leash, toys and chew toys, a week’s worth of cage liner

Step 4: Prepare Emergency Supplies and Traveling Kits

- You should also have an emergency kit for the human members of the family. Items to include:
- Batteries duct tape, flashlight, radio, multi-tool, tarp, rope, permanent marker, spray paint, baby wipes, protective clothing and footwear, extra cash, rescue whistle, important phone numbers, extra medication and copies of medical and insurance information.

Step 5: Keep the ASPCA On-Hand at All Times

- The free ASPCA mobile app shows pet parents exactly what to do in case of a natural disaster. It also allows pet owners to store vital medical records and provides information on making life-saving decisions during natural disasters.



Step 5: Keep the ASPCA On-Hand at All Times

With a few swipes, you can:

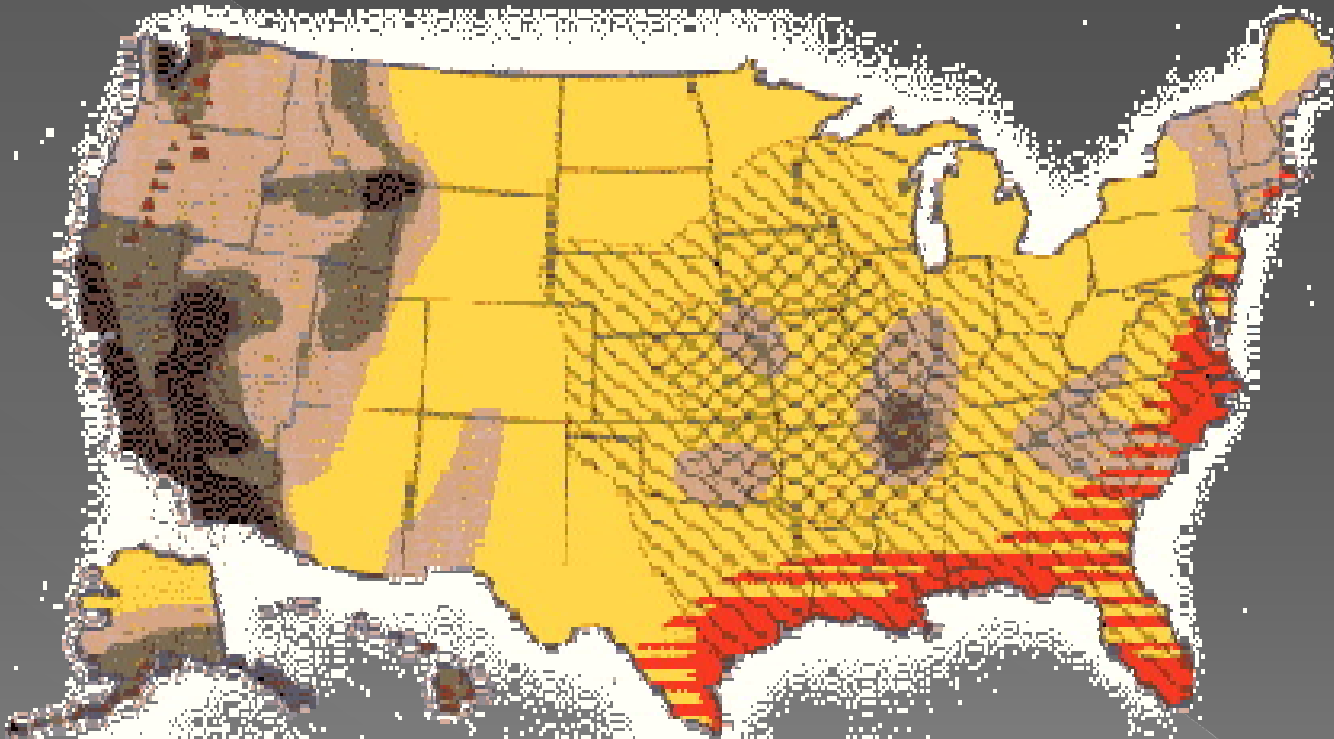
- ◉ Access critical advice on what to do with your pet before, during, and after a major storm—even if there's no data connectivity.
- ◉ Store and manage your pet's critical health records.
- ◉ Receive a personalized missing pet recovery kit, including step-by-step instructions on how to search for a lost animal in a variety of circumstances.
- ◉ Build a lost pet digital flyer that can be shared instantly on your social media channels.
- ◉ Get the latest and most relevant news about pets and animal welfare.

Geographic Considerations

- If you live in an area that is prone to certain natural disasters, such as tornadoes, earthquakes or floods, you should plan accordingly.



US Disaster Statistics



Hurricanes



Wildfires



Geographic Considerations

- Determine well in advance which rooms offer safe havens. These rooms should be clear of hazards such as windows, flying debris, etc.
- Choose easy-to-clean areas such as utility rooms, bathrooms and basements as safe zones
- Access to a supply of fresh water is particularly important. In areas that may lose electricity, fill up bathtubs and sinks ahead of time to ensure that you have access to water during a power outage or other crises.
- In the event of flooding, go to the highest location in your home, or a room that has access to counters or high shelves where your animals can take shelter.

Conclusion

- Our pets are our family members and we should treat them as such and care for their needs. Work with them and add them to your emergency plans as valuable members and contributors to everyone's well-being!

Stay safe, prepare and
don't forget your pets



Questions?



Thank You!

