



# Prepared Pets In a Disaster

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## **YOUR BELOVED PET MAY BE SEPARATED FROM YOU**

Planning is the key to keeping yourself and your pet safe during a disaster. It's best you provide the supplies necessary for your pet because they will be used to these items. This will help minimize stress separation.

## **DON'T LEAVE THEM BEHIND**

If you have to evacuate for your safety, it isn't safe for your beloved companion either! Plan ahead so you don't have to leave your animals behind.

## **START A "BUDDY" SYSTEM**

Do you have a neighbor, friend, or relative who has a safe place to care for your pet(s)? In the event of a disaster, ask if they are willing to care for your pet(s) until you return. Give them written instructions on the care for your pet(s).

## **MAKE KENNEL ARRANGEMENTS AHEAD OF TIME**

**MAKE PLANS AHEAD!** By law, a state licensed kennel must have a copy of up-to-date health records, rabies shot number, and next due date for rabies shot in order to board pets. Keep this information handy. Pet owners who plan ahead by bringing their pet in a cage with their own supplies can help increase the kennel's use of space for many more pets. Teach your pet that the pet carrier is a safe place. This will make staying in a kennel during a disaster a healthy and more comfortable environment for your pet!

## **VETERINARY CLINIC**

Plan ahead so when the disaster happens, you and your pet will be prepared! Have your pet tattooed or micro-chipped. Ask for a copy of all up-to-date health records and for your vet to make up a "First Aid Kit" with everything needed for two weeks. Don't forget medications. Make a list of your pets' special needs, like amount of food fed daily, personality, habits, and anything else you can think of that will make the animal more comfortable. Don't forget a good photo of your pet to help locate them should they get lost. Put everything in an airtight bag and label it, with your name, address and phone numbers. Keep all this information on file at the Veterinarian's office, your home, a neighbor's, with a friend, a relative, or at the kennel. Sign an authorization for treatment, which states what emergency treatment and/or surgery you would (or would not want done) in your absence. You can also state how much you wish to spend.

## **WHAT ELSE CAN I DO, TO MAKE IT LESS STRESSFUL?**

**CAGE/PET CARRIER** ~ Teach them to like eating, sleeping, and riding in a cage. If you don't own a cage buy one. Needs to be large and tall enough for them to move around in, and be able to hang a food and water bowl inside. Newspaper and towels will be needed.

**FOOD & WATER** ~ Keep an extra bag of dry food, plus canned. Put in an airtight plastic container with a can opener, spoon, and plus 3 gallons of distilled water.

**CLEANING SUPPLIES** ~ Small bottle of disinfectant (follow instructions on bottle), spray bottle, poop bags, and paper towels.

**FEELING OF WELL BEING** ~ Provide something with your own scent on it, like a towel. This will make the pet comfortable and warm.

Need collar (with ID tags) and lead in order to go for walks and go to the bathroom.

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(Make copies to hand this out!)**

