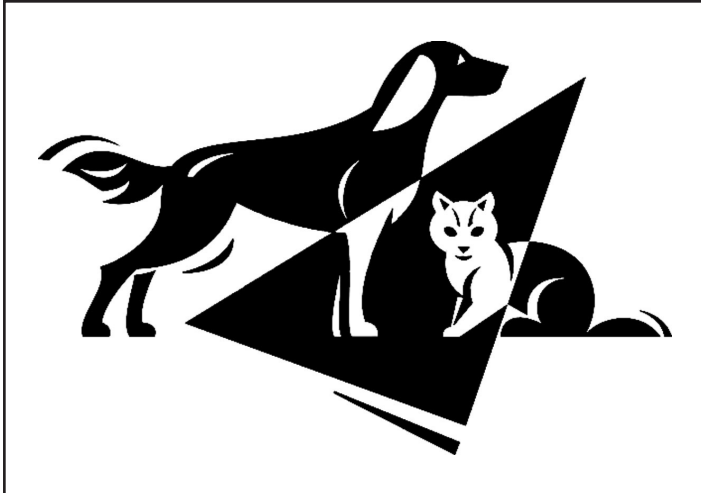




PET PREPAREDNESS



When you developed your family emergency plan, did you include plans for your pets? It's important to include provisions for your pets because they depend on you for care. Pets also can provide psychological comfort after an earthquake or other disaster.

Plan: What Will You Do in an Emergency?

- Create a plan to get away.
- Secure appropriate lodging in advance: Know where you and your pet will be going after an emergency. Please note that some emergency shelters cannot accept animals. You may be directed to another location.
- Develop alternate plans: Have pre-planned boarding information for your pets in case you are sick, injured or have to evacuate during a disaster.
- Keep current documentation: It is a good idea to maintain current records such as medical history and identification for every pet. During disasters this information is useful in the event your pet is missing or is taken to a shelter. Also, you should consider having a microchip implanted in your animal by your pet's veterinarian in case you get separated.

Prepare: Make a Pet Disaster Kit

You should have the following items assembled and ready to take in a crisis (keep in a duffel bag or sturdy container, in a spot where it's handy to grab):





- Wire cage or carrier with good air circulation, along with bedding and cover for sun, rain, ash, etc., and/or sturdy leashes and harnesses or collars, with a ground mounting device or carabiner for tying pets up temporarily.
- Food, water (for several days), bowls, cat litter/pan, and a manual can opener.
- Several days supply of medications (including anti-stress remedies) recommended by your veterinarian.
- Name, telephone number and address of your veterinarian; information on feeding schedules, vaccination dates, medical and behavioral problems, and any other special issues your pet may have (attach to the cage or carrier in a waterproof, chew-resistant bag).
- Current identification tags on animal collars and/or microchip.
- Animal first aid kit and supplies such as gauze rolls for bandaging and making muzzles, towels, and blankets.
- Current photos of you with your pets in case you get separated (in your wallet).
- Outside contact information: Your own, plus someone who can take custody of your pets if you are unable to do so (attach to carrier), as well as an out-of-state contact.
- Pet beds and toys to reduce animal's stress, if easily transportable.
- Plastic bags and scoopers to pick up and store pet waste.



Respond: What to Do if Your Pet is Lost

- Immediately call or visit the nearest animal shelter to report your pet missing.
- When it is safe, return to your neighborhood to post or distribute "Lost Pet Posters". Be sure to include your name, home address, and home and work phone numbers. It's always helpful to include a current photograph of your pet.
- When it is safe, continue to search the area for your missing pet. A frightened animal may stay hidden for days.

Animals Other than Dogs and Cats

- Horses and livestock need their own unique evacuation plan. Establish pre-designated plans before an emergency.
 
- Birds should be transported in a secure travel cage with a blanket for cold weather or a plant mister for hot weather.
 
- Snakes can be transported in a pillowcase but must be transferred to more secure housing when you reach the evacuation site. Take a water bowl large enough for soaking, and a heat source. Bring food if they need to eat often.
 
- Small mammals and chickens should be transported in secure carriers suitable for animals to live in while they are being sheltered. Take bedding materials, cage liners, food bowls and water bottles.
 

After the Disaster

After the crisis has passed, it may be some time before you can return to your home, so be prepared for a stay of several days or even a week or two. Keep in mind that even if your house is intact and you are allowed to return, the area may not yet be safe for your pets.

Risks after a fire include burned or cut paws, eating or inhaling toxic substances or residues, escaping because of downed fences or other damage, loss of shelter and shade, and a lack of water supply, power supply, and other services. Many similar risks will be present after an earthquake or other disaster.

Keep in mind that when animals return to a changed landscape, they may be upset, disoriented, and easily stressed. Give them as much calm and normalcy as you can, and follow similar rituals whenever possible.

Pet Preparedness Websites

The Humane Society of the United States
www.hsus.org

American Red Cross:
 Pet Emergency Tips
www.redcross.org

United States Department of Homeland Security
www.ready.gov

State of California Agriculture Department
www.cdffa.ca.gov

U.C. Davis Center for Equine Health (for Horses)
www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/vmth/large_animal/

Noah's Wish
www.noahswish.org

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