

# Pet Preparedness

## Before a disaster

- Decide on safe locations in your house where you could leave your pet in an emergency. Consider easy to clean areas such as utility rooms or bathrooms. Avoid rooms with hazards such as windows, hanging plants and pictures.
- Plan to set up a separate location for each animal. Disasters stress animals. Even a gentle pet can exhibit distressed behaviors.
- If your pet is on medication or a special diet, find out from your vet what you should do in case you have to leave it alone for several days. Try to get an extra supply of medications.
- Make sure your pet has a properly fitted collar that includes the current license and rabies tags, and your name, address, and phone number.



## Emergency supplies for pets

- fiberglass carrier for each pet with an envelope taped to the top of the carrier containing: a photo with your pet's name on it, vaccination records, information about prescription medications, and your vet's name and phone numbers
    - train your pet to become comfortable being in the carrier
  - food should be dry and relatively unappealing to prevent overeating
  - towels or blankets for warmth
  - water sufficient for three days
  - zip-lock baggies for cleanup
  - spray disinfectant and latex gloves
- In addition, cats need:
- plastic litter box
  - jug of clumping kitty litter and a scoop

## During a disaster

- Bring your pets inside immediately. Animals have instincts about severe weather changes and will often isolate themselves if they are afraid. Bringing them inside early can stop them from running away. Never leave a pet outside or tied up during a storm.
- If you evacuate and have to leave your pet at home, prepare a safe location for it.
  - leave a three day supply of *dry* food, even if it is not the pet's usual food. Moistened food can turn rancid or sour. Put the food in a sturdy container the pet cannot overturn.
  - leave water in a sturdy, no-spill container. If possible, open a faucet slightly and let the water drip into a big container.
  - replace a chain "choke" collar with a leather or nylon collar. Make sure the collar has tags and identification.
- Separate dogs and cats. Even if they normally get along, the anxiety of a disaster situation can cause pets to act unpredictably.
- If you evacuate and plan to take your pets, remember to bring your pet's medical records and medicines.

***For health and safety reasons, pets will not be allowed in public emergency shelters.***

## After a disaster

- In the first few days after the disaster, leash your pets when they go outside. Maintain close contact. Familiar scents and landmarks may be altered, and your pet may become confused and lost.
- The behavior of your pets may have changed. Normally quiet and friendly pets may become aggressive or defensive. Leash dogs and place them in a fenced yard with access to shelter and water.

