

Preparing for Your Pet's Safety Before, During, and After a Disaster

Before the Emergency:

Create a Pet Emergency Kit: This kit should include:

Food and Water: At least 7 days worth of food and water for your pet. Include a manual can opener if your pet eats canned food.

Medications: Keep a supply of your pet's medications, including any prescriptions, in a waterproof container.

First Aid Kit: Include items like gauze, antiseptic wipes, antibiotic ointment, and a muzzle.

Collar and ID Tags: Make sure your pet has a collar with up-to-date ID tags that include your phone number. Consider microchipping your pet as well.

Leash or Harness: Keep a sturdy leash or harness readily available for your pet.

Carrier: Have a secure, comfortable carrier for your pet, especially if you need to evacuate.

Photos and Records: Keep copies of your pet's vaccination records, medical history, and a recent photo in your kit or a safe place.

Prepare an Evacuation Plan:

Identify Safe Zones: Know where you will go if you need to evacuate with your pet. This could be a friend's house, a designated shelter, or a pet-friendly hotel.

Practice Evacuation: Practice evacuating with your pet so they are familiar with the process.

Emergency Contact Information: Keep a list of emergency contacts, including your veterinarian, a local animal shelter, and any pet-friendly hotels in your area.

Consider Pet-Friendly Shelters: Many emergency shelters do not allow pets. Research pet-friendly shelters in your area and make sure you have a plan for where you will go with your pet.

During the Emergency

Keep Your Pet Secure: If possible, keep your pet in a secure carrier or crate during the emergency. This will help to keep them safe and prevent them from getting lost or injured.

Follow Evacuation Orders: If you are ordered to evacuate, take your pet with you. Do not leave

them behind.

Stay Calm: Pets can sense your emotions, so stay calm and reassuring to help them stay calm as well.

Be Prepared for the Unexpected: Have a plan for what you will do if you are separated from your pet during the emergency.

After the Emergency

Check for Injuries: Once the emergency is over, check your pet for any injuries. Take them to the vet if necessary.

Provide Food and Water: Make sure your pet has access to fresh food and water.

Clean Up: Clean up any debris or hazardous materials that could be harmful to your pet.

Stay in Contact: Keep in touch with your veterinarian and other emergency contacts.

Be Patient: It may take some time for your pet to adjust to the aftermath of the emergency. Be patient and understanding.

Additional Tips:

Consider Pet Insurance: Pet insurance can help cover the costs of medical care in the event of an emergency.

Train Your Pet: Train your pet to respond to basic commands, such as "come" and "stay." This can be helpful in an emergency situation.

Update Your Contact Information: Make sure your contact information is up-to-date on your pet's collar and microchip.

Remember, being prepared for a disaster can help ensure the safety of your pet. By taking the time to plan ahead, you can give your furry friend the best chance of surviving an emergency.