

# PREPARE

**Consider Making Two Emergency Supply Kits.** Just as you assemble an emergency supply kit for your family, your pet also needs essential items in case of an emergency. In one kit, put everything you and your pets will need to stay where you are. The second kit should be a lightweight, travel-friendly version you can take with you should you need to evacuate. Kits should contain an appropriate supply of food and water. Be sure to re-view your kits regularly to ensure that their contents, specifically food and medicine, are fresh.

**Collar with ID tag, harness, or leash.** Your pet should always wear a collar that includes a rabies tag and identification. Include a backup leash, collar and ID tag in your pet's emergency supply kit. In addition, place copies of your pet's registration information, adoption papers, vaccination documents, and medical records in a clean plastic bag or waterproof container and add them to your kit. You should also consider talking with your veterinarian about permanent identification such as microchipping and enrolling your pet in a recovery database.

**Crate or other pet carrier.** If you need to evacuate, take your pets and animals with you in an appropriately sized crate or pet carrier if needed. In many cases, having a sturdy, safe, comfortable crate or carrier ready for transporting your pet makes evacuating less stressful for you and your pet. The carrier should be large enough for your pet to stand, turn around and lie down.

**A picture of you and your pet together.** If you become separated from your pet during an emergency, a picture of you and your pet together will help you document ownership and allow others to assist in identifying your pet. Include detailed information about species, breed, age, sex, color, and distinguishing characteristics.

**Food.** Keep at least three days of food in an airtight, waterproof container.

**Water.** Store at least three days of water specifically for your pets — this in addition to water you need for yourself and your family.

**Medicines and medical record.** Keep an extra supply of medicines your pet takes on a regular basis in a waterproof container.

**First aid kit.** Talk to your veterinarian about what is most appropriate for your pet's emergency medical needs.

**Sanitation.** Include pet litter and litter box, newspapers, paper towels, plastic trash bags, and household chlorine bleach to provide for your pet's sanitation needs.

**Familiar items.** Put favorite toys, treats or bedding in your kit. Familiar items can help reduce pet stress.

# PLAN



## Be prepared to assess the situation.

Use whatever you have on hand to take care of yourself and ensure your pet's safety during an emergency. Depending on your circumstances and the nature of the emergency, the first important decision is to remain calm and follow local law enforcement directives to either shelter in place or evacuate. If you're specifically told to evacuate, shelter in place or seek medical treatment, do so immediately. Be prepared to either shelter in place or evacuate using the Pet Emergency Checklist and be sure to follow local news and emergency broadcasts for updates.



## Create a plan to evacuate.

Create a plan to prepare your pets for evacuation in an emergency including choosing a destination, crate and carrier preparation, and transportation logistics. Please, also consider:

- Public shelters may not allow your animals outside.
- Securing appropriate lodging in advance depending on the number and type of animals in your care.
- Partnering with family or friends to take in you and your pets in an emergency.
- Finding pet-friendly hotels or motels or a boarding facility, such as a kennel or veterinary hospital that is near an evacuation facility or your family's meeting place.

Find out before an emergency happens if any of these facilities in your area might be viable options for you and your pets.



## Develop a buddy system.

Plan with neighbors, friends, or relatives to make sure that someone is available to care for or evacuate your pets if you are unable to do so. Talk with your pet care buddy about your evacuation plans and show them where you keep your pet's emergency supply kit. Choose two designated meeting spots in case of an emergency: one close to home and another in a distant, safer location.



## Talk to your pet's veterinarian about emergency planning.

Discuss the types of things that you should include in your pet's emergency first aid kit. You should also consider talking with your veterinarian about permanent identification such as microchipping and enrolling your pet in a recovery database. If your pet is microchipped, keeping your emergency contact information up-to-date and listed with a reliable recovery database is essential to being reunited with your pet.



## Gather contact information for emergency animal treatment.

Create a list of important contact information, including local animal control agencies, the Humane Society or SPCA, and emergency veterinary hospitals. Keep one copy with you and another in your pet's emergency supply kit. Place "Pets Inside" stickers on doors or windows to alert firefighters and rescue personnel, noting the number and types of pets in your home. Consider adding a phone number where you can be reached in an emergency. If you evacuate with your pets and time allows, write "Evacuated with Pets" on the sticker to prevent unnecessary rescue efforts.



## Understand different emergency types.

Preparing an emergency supply kit for yourself, your family, and your pets is a smart step, no matter the kind of emergency. For more information on how to get ready, visit [ready.gov](https://ready.gov) or call 1-800-BE-READY. Be sure to adapt these guidelines to your specific situation and always follow instructions from local authorities. With a few simple preparations, you can face the unexpected with greater confidence. Planning ahead for yourself and your pet can help reduce stress, confusion, and hardship during an emergency.

For more information about how to prepare:

**[ready.gov](https://ready.gov) | 1-800-BE-READY**



# PET EMERGENCY KIT CHECKLIST

Keeping a checklist with basic needs, like food and water, is an easy way to ensure you and your pet are prepared with essential supplies in case of an emergency.

## ☐ Food

Keep at least three days of food in an airtight, waterproof container.

## ☐ Water

Store at least three days of water specifically for your pets — this in addition to water you need for yourself and your family.

## ☐ Medicines & Medical Records

Keep an extra supply of medicines your pet takes on a regular basis in a waterproof container.

## ☐ First Aid Kit

Talk to your veterinarian about what is most appropriate for your pet's emergency medical needs.

## ☐ Collar with ID Tag, Harness, or Leash

Your pet should always wear a collar that includes a rabies tag and identification. Include a backup leash, collar and ID tag in your pet's emergency supply kit.

## ☐ Important Documents

Place copies of your pet's vaccination documents and medical records in a clean plastic bag or waterproof container and add them to your kit.

## ☐ Crate or Other Pet Carrier

If you need to evacuate, take your pets and animals with you in an appropriately sized crate or pet carrier if needed.

## ☐ Sanitation

Include pet litter and litter box, newspapers, paper towels, plastic trash bags, and household chlorine bleach to provide for your pet's sanitation needs.

## ☐ Photo of You & Your Pet Together

If you become separated from your pet, a picture will help you document ownership and allow others to assist in identifying your pet.

## ☐ Familiar Items

Put favorite toys, treats, or bedding in your kit. Familiar items can help reduce a pet's stress.



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# Emergency Preparedness for Pets



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