

# Pets Need Emergency Plans Too!

## Get Your Pets Ready!



### PETS NEED TO GO KITS TOO!

Pets need emergency supplies and traveling kits too. Keep your pet “to go” kit packed and handy, and make sure that everyone in the family knows where it is. The kit should be clearly labeled and easy to carry. Items to include:

- Pet food and water for at least three days
- Can opener, spoons
- Treats
- Bowls
- Cat litter and litter pan
- Poop scooper
- Medications
- Pet first aid kit
- Bedding
- Toys
- Grooming supplies
- Leashes or harnesses
- Muzzle (if needed)
- Leather gloves and towels (for handling upset pets)
- Copies of up-to-date vaccination records
- Collars with tags and/or microchip information
- Photos of you with your pet (both digital and paper)
- Current sticker on house window with pet list for fire/emergency personnel
- Paper towels, plastic trash bags, and a bottle of spray cleaner/disinfectant
- Alcohol based hand sanitizer
- List of important animal emergency contacts (animal control, animal shelter, veterinarians, etc.)
- Other (add your unique items to the list)



### WHAT IF YOU ARE NOT AT HOME?

Emergencies can happen while you are not at home. To ensure that your pets will be cared for during an emergency, make sure to choose “designated caregivers.”

Selection of a designated caregiver typically takes considerable time and thought. When you choose a temporary caregiver, consider someone who lives close to your home. This person should be someone who is generally at home during the day while you are at work, or has easy access to your home. A set of keys should be given to this trusted individual. A “pet caregiver” arrangement can work well with neighbors who have pets of their own—think about swapping responsibilities with neighboring pet owners.

### EMERGENCY PLANNING FOR YOUR PET

Emergencies may require that you leave your home. Do not leave your pets behind. Remember, if it isn’t safe for you, it isn’t safe for your pets. Arrange a safe haven for your pets in the event of evacuation. They may become trapped or escape and be exposed to numerous life-threatening hazards. Note that disaster shelters do not accept pets, so it is critical that you determine where you will take your pets ahead of time. Here is a list of things to do as part of your pet preparedness plan:

- Contact your veterinarian for a list of preferred boarding kennels and facilities.
- Ask your local animal shelter if they provide emergency shelter or foster care for pets.
- Identify hotels or motels outside of your immediate area that accept pets.
- Ask friends and relatives outside your immediate area if they would be willing to take in your pet.

### PET EVACUATION

If you must evacuate your home in a disaster, plan for the worst-case scenario. For example, if you think you may be gone for only a day, assume instead that you may not be allowed to return for several weeks.

- Store an emergency kit and leashes as close to an exit as possible.
- Make sure all pets wear collars and tags with up-to-date identification. Your pet’s ID tag should contain its name, telephone number, and any urgent medical needs. Be sure to also write your pet’s name, your name, and contact information on your pet’s carrier
- Microchip your pet as a more permanent form of identification. A microchip is implanted in the animal’s shoulder area, and can be read by scanners at most animal shelters. Register the chip information and keep your contact information updated at all times.



For more information, visit [www.petaidcolorado.org](http://www.petaidcolorado.org)