

# Pet Preparedness



## Are You “Pet-Pared” for Disasters?



It is important to make sure that everyone in your family is prepared for emergencies, including your pets! Many people consider dogs, cats, and other pets to be important members of their families. In an emergency, your pets will be even more dependent on you for their safety and well-being. Learn what to do to keep them safe.

The [American Red Cross](#) recommends these top 3 tips for keeping your pet safe during a disaster:

1. If it's not safe for you to stay in your home during an emergency, it's not safe for them either!
2. Include supplies for your pet in your emergency or assemble an emergency kit for your pet.
3. Make an evacuation plan for you and your pets. Many hotels and shelters do not accept animal guests, other than service animals.

### Assemble an Emergency Kit

Keep items in an accessible place and store them in sturdy containers so that they can be carried easily.

#### Your kit should include:

- Sturdy leashes, harnesses and/or carriers to transport pets safely and ensure that they can't escape.
- Food, drinking water, bowls, litter/pan and a manual can opener if you pet eats canned food.
- Medications and copies of medical records stored in a waterproof container.
- A first aid kit.



- Know which friends, relatives, boarding facilities, animal shelters or veterinarians can care for your pets in an emergency. Prepare a list with phone numbers.
- Make sure that your pet's vaccinations are up-to-date and that all pets are wearing collars with current info and identification.

### **Additional Resources**

**American Red Cross:** Pet Disaster Preparedness

**ASPCA:** Emergencies come in many forms, and each type of disaster – keep your pets safe.

**Bring Fido (US):** Stands ready to assist during any emergency evacuation for free.

**FEMA:** When Disasters Strike – Protect your Pets!

**Equine disaster preparedness:** Horses require extra consideration in disaster planning

**Livestock disaster preparedness:** Be prepared in the event of an emergency

**Community cat disaster preparedness:** You can help community (feral and stray) cats before and after a hurricane, earthquake, flood or other disasters.