



MONTHLY PREPAREDNESS TOPIC

HOW TO PREPARE:

Whether you decide to stay in place in an emergency or evacuate to a safer location, you will need to make plans in advance for your pets. Keep in mind that what is best for you is also typically best for your pets.

ID AND VACCINATE YOUR PETS

- Make sure pets are wearing a collar at all times
- Have cell phone number on pet's tag
- Consider Microchipping your animal
- Make sure vaccinations are current

CREATE A DISASTER KIT

- Food/Water for at least 5 days
- Bowls and can opener, if necessary
- Medications and medical records stored in a waterproof container
- First-aid kit w/ pet first-aid book
- Animal waste disposal bags
- Sturdy leash, harness, or carrier
- Current photo of pet w/ description
- Detailed written instructions for care in case boarding is needed
- Vet's Phone number

PETS IN DISASTERS

IF YOU STAY HOME

- If you must stay home to wait out a storm or disaster, find a safe place in your home where you can all stay together and make it pet-friendly.
- Close off unsafe areas where frightened pets may hide.
- Move dangerous items such as tools or toxic products from the area.
- If you have a room you can designate ahead of time as the "safe room," put emergency supplies there.

IF YOU EVACUATE

- If it's not safe for you, it's not safe for your pet; take them with you if you leave.
- Evacuate early: do not wait for a mandatory evacuation order. You may be required to leave your pet behind if you wait to be evacuated by emergency officials.
- Evacuating before conditions become dangerous and stressful will help keep your pet calm and more easily moved out of the area.



AFTER THE DISASTER

- Your home may be a very different place after the emergency is over and, at first, it may be hard for your pets to adjust.
- Do not allow pets to roam loose. Familiar landmarks could have changed and your pet may get lost.
- While you assess home damage, keep animal on a leash or in a carrier so they don't escape if the house is damaged.
- Keep pets away from disaster sites. Paws, feet, noses, and airways could be damaged from the dust, hazardous materials, and debris common to post-disaster sites.
- Do not let your pet eat or drink something unless you are confident about the food or water's safety.
- Be patient with your pets after a disaster. Help them get back into their normal routine slowly.
- Be alert for wild animals that may have sought refuge in your house or yard and the potential threat they pose to your animal.