The likelihood that you and your pets will survive an emergency such as a fire, flood, or earthquake is directly related to your level of emergency planning. Whether you decide to stay in place 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.

### How To Prepare
- 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
  - First-aid kit with first-aid book
  - Animal waste disposal bags
  - Sturdy leash, harness, or carrier
  - Current photo of pet with description
  - Detailed written instructions for care
  - Vet’s phone number

### 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 as the “safe room”, put emergency supplies there.

### If You Evacuate
- If it is not safe for you, it is not safe for your pet; take them with you when 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 safe.

### After The Disaster
- 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 that they do not 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 sure it is safe.
- Be patient with your pets after a disaster. Help them get back into their normal routine.
- Be alert for wild animals that may have sought refuge in your house or yard. Be aware of the potential threat they pose.

For more information please visit [Ready.gov](http://Ready.gov)