

5 Animal Disaster Preparedness Essentials

1 Identify evacuation locations

- Find places that can accommodate pets if you evacuate; consider pet-friendly hotels, kennels and/or loved ones
- Write down locations and store them with your disaster kit
- Practice loading your pets into carriers and your vehicle

2 Microchip your pets

- It is the single best way to reunite lost pets and families
- Update microchip registration when you move, change phone numbers or get a new emergency contact
- Secure a sturdy, legible ID tag on your pets' collars, too

3 Start a buddy system

- Exchange keys with someone who can evacuate your animals if you are not home when disaster strikes
- Give your buddy your pets' information and your emergency contact information
- Make sure your buddy is comfortable handling your pets

4 Assemble a disaster kit

- Assemble a kit for each animal in your household
- Keep the kit near an exit so it is easy to grab in case of an emergency
- Turn this card over for tips on what to include in your disaster kit

5 Take photos of you with your pet(s)

- Photos can prove ownership if you are separated from your pets
- Keep copies in your wallet and your disaster kit
- Give copies to a loved one who lives outside of your area
- Storing photos on your cell phone can also be useful

Disaster Kit Checklist

Food

- A one-week supply in airtight, waterproof containers
- If using canned food, include a can opener and spoon
- Rotate food every two months to avoid spoilage

Water

- A one-week supply in airtight, waterproof containers
- Avoid storing in direct sunlight
- Rotate water every two months to avoid spoilage

First aid/Medication

- Basic animal first aid kit and book
- At least a one-week supply of prescription medication
- Heartworm and flea/tick preventive

Identification

- Photos of pets that show any distinguishing features
- Photos of you with your pets
- Temporary "write-on" identification tag
- Proof of vaccinations (in case you must board pet)

Animal care supplies

- Collar and leash or harness
- Crate or carrier
- Collapsible food and water bowls
- Blanket, toys and treats

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