

Pet Disaster Supplies: Preparing for an Emergency Situation



No one ever wants to be put into an emergency situation, but they do happen. Putting together an emergency supply kit doesn't cost much and only take a few moments. So do your furry pal a favor gather some basic pet disaster supplies, including:

Food: Pack enough to last at least one week for each dog and/or cat. Make sure it's the same type of food your pet is accustomed to eating so that he doesn't have any stomach upsets. If you feed canned food, try to find small cans that are suitable for single feedings only since you may not have access to a refrigerator for leftovers. Store the food in waterproof, airtight containers. Every 2 or 3 months, replace the food with fresh food.

Water: When disaster strikes drinking water is sometimes unavailable, and the water that *is* available is probably not sanitary. Again, pack enough drinking water to last each pet at least one week and store the supply in a cool place. Replace the water every few months.

Several bowls, measuring cups, can openers, and spoons: Make sure you have what you need to properly feed your pet.

Travel crate: Pet travel supplies are widely available at pet supply stores. Get a crate that's large enough so that your pet can stand up and lie down comfortably. For cats try to have one large enough to fit a small litter box. You never know where you will be staying or for how long. Many types of crates are available - some are airline approved, others are collapsible for easy portability.

Leashes, collars and harnesses: Keep extras on hand in case your pet chews through one. Frightened animals may attempt to run. Harnesses are a good option in this case because it's much harder for an animal to escape from a harness than from a collar and leash. (There are harnesses and leashes made specifically for cats).

If you have to tie your dog up, make sure you keep an eye on him in case he starts to show signs of stress (in which case he might try to escape). Also ensure you tie him in an area where he cannot fall or slip off something and choke himself.

And finally, do not leave your pet outside, unattended, for extended periods of time. Aside from the possibility of escape, there are other dangers.

Proper identification for each pet: Some form of visible ID such as a collar with license tag and/or a tattoo is a good start. Microchips are available from your veterinarian too. It's also a good idea to keep a couple of spare "writeable" tags with you too. If you have to stay elsewhere during the emergency, write your contact information on the tag and attach it to your pet's collar. *Always keep your contact information up-to-date.*

Documentation for each pet: This includes vaccination records, a recent photo (just in case your pet gets lost - a photo makes ID easier), the name and number of your veterinarian, a record of medications and dosage. Also look up a list of nearby veterinarians and keep a list of their addresses and telephone numbers, just in case your regular vet is unable to assist during the disaster.

Medications: Try to keep a couple of weeks worth of prescription medication on hand, ideally in their original vials. In an emergency situation your vet may not be able to re-fill a prescription.

A pet first-aid kit: Our furry friends can get hurt too, especially in the noise and confusion of a disaster situation. Pet first aid kits are sold at some pet supply stores, or you can local dog supplies online.

Cleaning supplies: Pack a supply of "waste bags", paper towels, cleaning disinfectant, and soap. Clean your pet's kennel and dishes regularly to help keep them free from nasty bacteria.

A list of places you can stay with your pet in case of emergency: This might just be friends or family, or even a list of nearby pet-friendly hotels or other accommodations. Check their pet policies to ensure they really will allow your pet (if you have a big dog, make sure this won't cause a problem - some hotels only allow small dogs).

As soon as you know you will need a hotel room, call in advance to make reservations. Other people may also be trying to get rooms as well.

If you do not currently have pet disaster supplies on hand, take a few moments to do it now! Put everything together in a portable tote bag and place it near the door. If an emergency situation occurs, gather your pets and grab the bag and be on your way quickly. It could be the difference between losing your pets or having them come home safe with you.

Information provided by <http://www.scamperingpaws.com/supplies/dogdisastersupplies.shtml>



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