

At-A-Glance

Pet Preparedness

If you are like millions of animal owners county-wide, your pet is an important member of your household. Unfortunately, animals are also affected by disaster.

Here are some year-round safety tips to prepare your pet for emergencies and some suggestions in case you have to evacuate with your pet.



Evacuation with your Pets...

- If you evacuate your home, **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PETS BEHIND!** Pets most likely cannot survive on their own and if they do you may not be able to find them when you return.
- If you are going to a public shelter, it is important to understand that animals may not be allowed inside. Plan in advance for shelter alternatives that will work for both you and your pets; consider loved ones or friends outside of your immediate area who would be willing to host you and your pets in an emergency.
- Make an emergency kit specifically for your pets that includes extra food, water, and pet medications for three days.
- Make a back-up emergency plan in case you can't care for your animals yourself. Develop a buddy system with neighbors, friends and relatives to make sure that someone is available to care for or evacuate your pets if you are unable to do so.



Winter Pet Safety Tips...

- Never leave pets outside when the temperature drops below freezing. Do not to keep them outdoors for lengthy periods of time during very cold weather.
- Pets that spend a lot of time outdoors need more food in the winter because keeping warm depletes their energy.
- Salt and other chemicals used to melt snow and ice can irritate the pads of your pet's paws and may be harmful if ingested.
- Antifreeze is a deadly poison, but it's sweet taste attracts animals and children.

Summer Pet Safety Tips...

- Your pets should wear a collar with its rabies tag and identification at all times. Include a backup leash, collar and ID tag in your pet's emergency supply kit. Place copies of your pet's registration information, vaccination documents, and medical records in a waterproof container.
- If your pet will be outside in the heat for any period, your pet should have access to a completely shaded area and plenty of cool drinking water.

Sources: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty of Animals (ASPCA)



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