

## Preparedness Tips for Pets

Companion pets are important members of your household. They're like family in many respects.

The likelihood that your pets will survive an emergency such as a fire, flood, or terrorist attack depends largely on the extent of emergency planning done today.

The single most important thing you can do to protect your pets if you are asked to evacuate is to take them with you. Even if you think you will only be gone for a few hours, **take your animals.**

It's important also to include pets in your family emergency plan. Make plans in advance with a trusted friend or family member who can get your pets for you if you are not home when an evacuation order is issued. Pets left or confined at home during a disaster are at *high* risk for escape, injury, or worse, death. If it is not safe for you to stay home, it is not safe for your pets!

**Find a safe place ahead of time.** Many evacuation shelters cannot allow pets, so make a list of friends, relatives, boarding facilities, hotels or motels that will be able to house you and your pets during an emergency.

**Your pet should always wear current identification.** Make sure your pet wears tags that include your name and phone number. It's also a good idea to include the phone number of a friend or relative outside your immediate area. If your pet becomes lost, you'll want to provide a number on the tag that will be answered if you are not at home. Finally, consider having a microchip implanted in your pet, so it can be easily identified if it becomes lost.

**Prepare an emergency supply kit.** Include the following items in an easily accessible, sturdy container that can be carried such as a duffel bag.

- Food and water for each pet for at least 3 days.
- Sturdy leashes, harnesses or carriers for transport.
- Current photo and description of each pet, including information about special needs or medical conditions.
- Current medical record showing vaccinations.
- Medication your pet is currently taking.
- Clean-up materials such as baggies, paper towels and disinfectant.
- Pet bed, blanket or favorite toy to help calm your pet.

## Resources

- [American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals \(ASPCA\)](#)
- [Humane Society of the United States](#)
- [American Kennel Club](#)
- [just in case arizona](#)
- [Ready America](#)