



Is Your Pet Ready for Winter Weather?

Just as you do with your family's emergency supply kit, think first about the basics for your pet's survival, particularly food and water. Consider two kits. In one, put everything you and your pets will need to stay where you are. The other should be a portable version you can take with you if you and your pets need to evacuate. Be sure to review your kits regularly to ensure that their contents, especially foods and medicines, are fresh.

Basics to Pack in your Pet Preparedness Kit

- Food for each pet
 - Keep at least three days of food in an airtight, waterproof container.
- Water for each pet
 - Store at least three days of water specifically for your pets, in addition to water you need for yourself and your family (one gallon of water per day for an animal the size of a large dog).
- Medicines and stress/anxiety reducers with medical instructions
 - Keep an extra supply of medicines your pet takes on a regular basis and during a stressful situation in a waterproof container. Keep instructions with the supply in case another person will be helping your pet(s).
- First aid kit for pets
 - Talk to your veterinarian about what is most appropriate for your pet's emergency medical needs. Most kits should include cotton bandage rolls, bandage tape and scissors, antibiotic ointment, flea and tick prevention, latex gloves, isopropyl alcohol and saline solution. Include a pet first aid reference book.
- Extra collar with current ID tag, harness or leash
 - Your pet should wear a collar with its rabies tag and identification at all times for identification purposes. Include a backup leash, collar and ID tag in your pet's emergency supply kit. Consider talking with your veterinarian about permanent identification such as micro-chipping, and enrolling your pet in a recovery database.
- Contact information and medical records
 - Keep one copy of the name and phone number of your veterinarian - along with emergency veterinarian hospitals, nearby kennels and animal shelters - with you and one in your kit. Place these along with copies of your pet's registration information, adoption papers, vaccination documents and medical records in a clean plastic bag or waterproof container and add them to your kit.
- Crate or other pet carrier
 - If you need to evacuate in an emergency situation take your pets and animals with you provided that it is practical to do so. In many cases, your ability to do so will be aided by having a sturdy, safe, comfortable crate or carrier ready for transporting your pet. The carrier should be large enough for your pet to stand, turn around and lie down. Make sure your name and contact information is on the carrier. Carriers make great places to keep your pet emergency kits, too.
- Sanitation materials
 - Include pet litter and a litter box if appropriate, as well as newspapers, paper towels, plastic trash bags and household liquid chlorine bleach to provide for your pet's sanitation needs. You can use bleach as a disinfectant (dilute nine parts water to one part bleach). If you can't boil water, in an emergency you can also use bleach to purify water. Add 1/8 teaspoon (or 8 drops) of regular, unscented, liquid household bleach for each gallon of water, stir it well and let it stand for 30 minutes before you use it.
- A picture of you and your pet together
 - If you become separated from your pet during an emergency, a picture of you and your pet together will help you document ownership and allow others to assist you in identifying your pet. Include detailed information about species, breed, age, sex, color and distinguishing characteristics.
- Additional unique needs and familiar comfort items
 - Put favorite toys, treats or special bedding in your kit. Familiar items can help reduce stress for your pet.

Create a Pet Plan

- Plan how you will assemble your pets in case of an evacuation and anticipate where you will go.
- Research other options. Find out before an emergency happens what facilities in your area or near your meeting place might be viable options for you and your pets. Options could include: hotels or motels that take pets; boarding facilities such as a kennels or veterinary hospitals that are near an evacuation facility.
- If you have ample warning of a severe weather event, such as possible flooding or freezing temperatures, be sure pets are brought inside.
- If you must evacuate, take your pets with you if practical. If you go to a public shelter, keep in mind your animals may not be allowed inside. Secure appropriate lodging in advance depending on the number and type of animals in your care.
- Consider family or friends willing to take in you and your pets in an emergency.

Develop a Buddy System

- Plan with neighbors, friends or relatives to make sure that someone is available to care for or evacuate your pets if you are unable to do so. Someone close to your pet's primary location is best.
- Talk with your pet care buddy about your evacuation plans and show them where you keep your pet's emergency supply kit.
- Keep your pet care buddy's contact information with you when you leave town. If you are away from home when a severe weather event occurs, call your pet buddy to check on your pet to make sure they are safe and secured inside.
- Designate specific locations (one in your immediate neighborhood and another farther away) where you will meet in an emergency.
- In case no one is available to help your pets, obtain or make your own "Pets Inside" sticker signs and place them on your doors or windows, including information on the number and types of pets in your home to alert firefighters and rescue workers. Consider putting a phone number on the sticker where you could be reached in an emergency. (And, if time permits, remember to write the words "Evacuated with Pets" across the stickers, should you flee with your pets.)

Talk to your Pet's Veterinarian about Emergency Planning

Discuss the types of things that you should include in your pet's emergency first aid kit. Get the names of vets or veterinary hospitals in other cities where you might need to seek temporary shelter. You should also consider talking with your veterinarian about permanent

identification such as micro-chipping, and enrolling your pet in a recovery database. If your pet is micro-chipped, keeping your emergency contact information up to date and listed with a reliable recovery database is essential to you being reunited with your pet.

Gather contact information for emergency animal treatment.

Make a list of contact information and addresses of area animal control agencies including the Humane Society or Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and emergency veterinary hospitals. Keep one copy of these phone numbers with you and one in your pet's emergency supply kit. Obtain or make "Pets Inside" sticker signs and place them on your doors or windows,

including information on the number and types of pets in your home to alert firefighters and rescue workers. Consider putting a phone number on the sticker where you could be reached in an emergency. And, if time permits, remember to write the words "Evacuated with Pets" across the stickers, should you flee with your pets.

Those who take the time to prepare themselves and their pets will likely encounter less difficulty, stress and worry. Take the time now to get yourself and your pet ready.