

Pet Safety Checklist

Include your pet in emergency planning. One of the most important steps is to make sure that your pet is properly identified. Then be prepared to keep your pet safe during emergency situations when you need to evacuate from your home or are unable to return home. Talk with your veterinarian to develop plans that meet your pet's individual needs.

Proper Identification

- Dogs and cats should wear a collar or harness with a rabies tag and identification tag at all times. The identification tag should include your name, address and phone number, and the phone number of your veterinarian. Dogs should also wear a license.
- Talk to your veterinarian about micro-chipping your pet. A properly registered microchip provides positive identification for your pet if you and your pet become separated.
- Keep a current color photo of your pet.
- Order free Rescue Alert stickers from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (www.asPCA.org).
- Put stickers on the entrances to your home to identify the number and types of pets inside and alert rescue workers. Update this information every six months.

Evacuating with Your Pet

- Arrange for family or friends outside of your city or state to care for your pet in case of an emergency. Include this information in your codeReady Plan.
- Identify animal-friendly hotels and motels outside of your city or state. Remember that if you're going to a public shelter, pets may not be allowed inside because of health and safety regulations.
- Talk with your veterinarian and boarding kennel about safe shelter for your pet during an emergency.
- Practice your evacuation plans so that all household members, including your pet, are familiar with the process.
- Take the pet items in your codeReady Kit with you. This list will automatically print out as part of your codeReady Kit.
- Know your pet's hiding places so you can locate your pet during an emergency.
- Pets often behave differently under stress and may become more aggressive. Use a muzzle to prevent bites. Remember that panicked pets may try to flee.

Leaving Your Pet at Home

- Keep your pet inside. Never leave your pet outside during an emergency.
- Leave a minimum three-day supply of food and water. Use a large-capacity self-feeder and water dispenser.
- Secure all doors and windows so your pet cannot escape.

If You Are Unable to Get Home to Your Pet

- Identify a friend or neighbor to care for your pet in your absence.
- Make sure this person has a set of house keys and a copy of your codeReady Plan.

After an Emergency

- Be cautious when letting your pet outdoors. Familiar scents and landmarks may have been altered, which could cause your pet to become confused or lost.
- Keep your pet away from other dangers created by the emergency, such as downed power lines or debris created by strong winds or rain.