



Preparing for Disasters

Disasters and emergencies can occur without warning. You need to be prepared in case you have to leave your home suddenly or are forced to stay inside without utilities.

Besides tornadoes, flooding, or snow storms, a large building fire or a tanker truck spilling toxic chemicals can require people to leave their homes. Emergencies can happen anywhere so we are all at risk.



Things happen rapidly so you won't have time to gather supplies. Collect everything ahead of time and keep them in one spot so you can quickly grab them and leave.

Be Prepared

If you are forced to leave your home, shelters for people don't accept pets. Plan now where to go. Have your pet microchipped in case you get separated and be sure the microchip company has your cell phone number. Prepare a "Go Bag" for your pet to have all the supplies your pet may need.

Go Bag

- Food, water, and bowls for each pet for at least 3 days (more is better). To save space, you can buy collapsible bowls at camping supply stores
- Manual can opener and spoon
- Litter, box and scoop for cats
- Paper towels, plastic bags, and spray disinfectant for animal waste cleanup
- Extra collars and tags, harnesses, and leashes for all pets (including cats)
- Muzzle or materials for an improvised muzzle
- First aid kit

- Pet comfort items such as blankets and toys
- Copies of your pet's medical and vaccination records including rabies certificate. Have the phone number and name of your veterinarian
- Your pet's microchip number written down
- If your pet is on medication, a 2-week supply
- A list of pet friendly hotels and boarding kennels
- Detailed instructions for someone else in case you cannot care for your pet
- A recent photo of you with your pet – photos showing any distinctive markings your pet has
- A tote or duffel bag to hold everything
- A crate large enough for your pet to stand up and turn around. Label the crate with your pet's name, your name, and where you can be reached. Have one for each pet

Keep everything together in your go bag and in a convenient place. Often you have little time to evacuate so you want to be able to just grab and go. Change the food and water every 4-6 months to keep it fresh. Update your pet's medical records as needed.

Being prepared is the best way to help you cope with a difficult situation. After you prepare your pet's go bag, prepare one for all your family members.

