

# Disaster Preparedness for Your Pet

Courtesy of the Humane Society of the United States

## Step 1: Start Getting Ready Now

### ID Your Pet

Make sure that your cat or dog is wearing a collar and identification that is up to date and visible at all time.

**Microchipping** your pet is inexpensive, and greatly increases your chances of being reunited with a lost pet. If your pet was adopted from a shelter or rescue organization, make sure the registration has been transferred to you and is not still with the adoption group. If you have recently moved or changed your phone number, make sure that information has been updated with the microchip company. You can also go to the website [foundanimals.org](http://foundanimals.org) to register your microchip for free.

### Put Together Your Disaster Kit

Keep your disaster kit in an easily accessible place, if you live in an area prone to flooding or hurricanes make a kit to keep in your car. A basic disaster kit should include:

**Food and water for at least five days** for each pet, bowls and a can opener if you are packing canned food. People need at least one gallon of water per person, per day. While your pet may not need that much, keep an extra gallon on hand in case your pet is exposed to chemicals and needs to be rinsed.

**Medications, medical records, and important** documents (such as registration information) stored in a waterproof container.

**First Aid Kit:** Most kits should include cotton bandage rolls, bandage taps, scissors, antibiotic ointment, flea and tick prevention, latex gloves, isopropyl alcohol, and saline solution. Include a pet first aid reference book.

**Collar, leash, and carriers to transport your pet.** Carriers should be large enough to allow your pet to stand comfortably, turn around, and lie down and should also be clearly labeled with your pets name and information.

**Sanitation Station:** Include bleach and bags to pick up dog waste, as well as pet litter and litter box if appropriate. In an emergency, you can use bleach to purify water by placing 8 drops of household bleach per gallon of water, stir well, and let stand for thirty minutes before use. Do not use scented or color safe bleach.

**Current photos of you with your pets** to identify them in case you and your pets become separated- and to prove that they are yours once you are reunited.

**Familiar Items:** Put favorite toys, treats, or bedding in your kit. Familiar items can help reduce stress for your pet during an emergency situation.

You should also have an emergency kit for the human members of the family. Items to include: Batteries, duct tape, flashlight, radio, multi-tool, tarp, rope, permanent marker, spray paint, baby wipes, protective clothing and footwear, extra cash, rescue whistle, important phone numbers, extra medication and copies of medical and insurance information.

## Make a Plan: Find A Safe Place to Stay Ahead of Time

Plan how you will evacuate and anticipate where you will go. Never assume that an emergency shelter will allow you to bring your pet. Before a disaster hits, find pet friendly places that you and your pets will be allowed to evacuate to. Your local office of emergency management will be able to assist you with your search.

As a part of your plan, you should make arrangements with trusted friends or neighbors so that if you are unable to make it home during a disaster, your pet can still be evacuated. Make sure this person is comfortable with your pet and has a key in case of an emergency. Plan a specific meeting spot well in advance where you can pick up your pet.

Contact local hotels and motels in both your immediate area and in likely evacuation routes, to determine if they accept pets. Ask about any restrictions on number, size, breed, or species. Online resources for pet friendly hotels include:

[Bringfido.com](http://Bringfido.com)

[Doginmysuitcase.com](http://Doginmysuitcase.com)

[Pets-allowed-hotels.com](http://Pets-allowed-hotels.com)

[Tripswithpets.com](http://Tripswithpets.com)

[Dogfriendly.com](http://Dogfriendly.com)

[Pet-friendly-hotels.net](http://Pet-friendly-hotels.net)

[Petswelcome.com](http://Petswelcome.com)