

# Furry Friends & Emergency Plans: A Pawsitive Guide to Pet Disaster Preparedness



When disaster strikes, the safety of our furry companions often becomes our top priority. Whether it's a natural disaster, unexpected emergencies, or even a simple power outage, being prepared can make all the difference for our pets. Just like we have plans in place for ourselves and our families, our four-legged friends deserve the same level of care and consideration. In this post, we'll explore essential tips and tricks to ensure your pets are ready for anything, so you can focus on keeping them safe and secure. Let's dive into creating a pet preparedness plan that's as cute and cuddly as they are!

## Three Steps for Disaster Preparedness

- 1) Make a Plan
- 2) Build an Emergency Kit
- 3) Stay Informed

### 1) Things to Include in Your Plan

- Have an evacuation plan for your pet
- Develop a buddy system
- Have your pet microchipped

### 2) Build a Kit for Your Pet

- Food**
  - Keep several days supply of food in an airtight, waterproof container
- Water**
  - Store a water bowl and several days supply of water
- Medicine**
  - Keep an extra supply of the medication your pet takes on a regular basis in waterproof container
- Documents (Keep in waterproof container)**
  - Photocopied vet records
    - Rabies Certificate
    - Vaccination Record
    - Prescriptions for crucial medications
    - Photocopied Registration Form
  - Pet Descriptions
  - Microchip Information (EX: microchip number, name and number of microchip company)
  - Your contact information
- First Aid Kit**
  - Talk to your veterinarian about what is most appropriate for your pet's medical needs
- Collar with ID tag and a harness or leash**
  - Include a backup leash, collar and ID tag
    - Ensure that all animals have some form of identification
- Traveling Bag, Crate or Sturdy Carrier**
  - Ideally, one for each pet
- Sanitation Needs**
  - Include pet litter and litter box (if appropriate), newspapers, paper towels, plastic dog bags, and potty pads (if applicable) to provide for your pet's sanitation needs
- A Recent Photo of Your Pet**
  - 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
- Familiar Items**
  - Put favorite toys, treats, and bedding in your kit, as these familiar items can help reduce stress for your pet

### **Carrier Cuddles: Tips for Taming Travel Time in Emergencies**

1. Leave the carriers out in places your pet frequently visits

2. Leave the carrier open
3. Add a favorite blanket or a small bed inside the carrier so it smells familiar
4. Make note of where your pets can hide, so you can easily find them in case you have to leave the house quickly

### **3) Stay Informed**

- Pay attention to wireless emergency alerts for local alerts and warnings sent by state and local safety officials
- Listen to local officials when told to evacuate or shelter in place
- Always bring pets indoors at the first sign or warning of a storm or disaster

In the whirlwind of preparing for the unexpected, it's easy to overlook our beloved pets, but their safety is just as crucial as our own. By taking the time to create a well-thought-out emergency plan and gathering essential supplies, you can ensure that your furry friends remain calm and secure in any situation. Remember, a little preparation goes a long way in turning a potentially scary experience into a manageable one. So, gather your supplies, practice your routines, and give your pets extra love—because together, you can weather any storm! Stay safe and cuddle up with those you cherish most!