



PETS IN DISASTERS



BEFORE A DISASTER

- Microchip your pet. Ensure your pet's microchip has your current contact information as well as an out of area emergency contact
- Keep a collar on your pet with current ID and rabies tag that includes pet's name, your name and phone numbers
- Train pets so they are familiar and comfortable in their crates/carriers
- Register with AlertSCC to receive emergency alerts and warnings on your devices
- Download the free ReadySCC App to help prepare for disasters, store contact information and stay informed



MAKE A PLAN

- Plan where you and your pet(s) will stay in case you need to evacuate. While service animals are accepted in emergency shelters, shelter facilities may not be able to accommodate pets and other animals. Alternate shelter options include: out of area friends or relatives, veterinary clinics, boarding facilities, animal shelters, relief organizations and pet-friendly hotels
- Arrange to have a trusted neighbor or nearby friend check on and care for your animals if you are unable to access your home during an emergency
- Review with household members and your back-up caretaker how to evacuate your pets, including where emergency supplies are kept and how to safely load and transport them

BUILD A KIT

Supplies

- Food and water for each pet including bowls (2-week supply)
- Medications (2-week supply)
- Carrier, crate and/or cage (include your pet's name, your name and contact information on each carrier)
- Leash or harness with ID tag, rabies tag
- Sanitation supplies, litter box, litter with scoop and/or pet waste bags, paper towels, disinfectant cleaner
- Blankets or towels for bedding and warmth
- First aid kit for pets
- Store carriers/crates with kit supplies in a location with easy access

Documents

- Contact information of owner, back-up caretaker and pet's veterinarian
- Medical records (including current vaccinations, microchip number, medications and medical history)
- A photo of you and your pet together for easier reunification if separated
- Written information about feeding schedule, medical conditions and behavior issues in case you have to board your pet or place in foster care
- A prepared list of alternate shelter options including animal hospitals, clinics or boarding facilities



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DURING A DISASTER

Evacuation: Leave early if evacuation is necessary. Evacuating before conditions become severe will keep everyone safer and make the process less stressful. Try to remain calm — pets can become frightened and attempt to run or hide.

- Secure pets on leashes or in carriers before opening doors, going outside or transporting in a vehicle
- Attempt to take your pets with you. If you leave your pets behind, they may be lost, injured – or worse. Never leave a pet chained outdoors
- If accommodations are needed for your pet, contact veterinary clinics, boarding facilities, local animal shelters, family or friends outside the evacuation area and pet-friendly hotels
- Remember to take your pet emergency kit with you



Sheltering in Place: If authorities recommend sheltering in place, make sure the area is safe for your pet(s):

- Select a secure room, close vents, windows and pet doors
- Keep emergency kits and supplies with you, including familiar items such as treats, toys and bedding
- Close off small areas where frightened pets could become stuck or trapped



AFTER A DISASTER

Returning Home: Familiar scents and landmarks may have changed and pets can become confused. Keep pets on a leash or in a carrier if transporting or going outside.

- Inspect your home for damage including sharp objects, spilled chemicals and other hazards to prevent injuries
- Don't allow pets to roam loose, pets can become disoriented if familiar landmarks and smells are gone
- Monitor animals closely and only release them in a safe and secure environment
- The behavior of animals may change after an event, normally quiet and friendly animals may become irritable
- Contact a veterinarian if you notice any signs of stress, discomfort, or illness in your pets

Notes: _____



RESOURCES AND INFORMATION

California Animal Response Emergency System (CARES)
www.Cal-Cares.com

Assists with all aspects of animal care during disasters with resources for the public, animal businesses, shelters & emergency planners

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
www.CDC.gov/Features/PetsandDisasters

Prepare pets for disasters, locate resources, understand health risks, prevent illnesses & injuries during disasters

Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA)
www.Ready.gov/animals

Provides useful pet emergency preparedness videos, checklists and information, including how to find pet-friendly hotels

Humane Society • www.HumaneSociety.org (search disaster planning)
Resources for developing a disaster plan and emergency supply kit with evacuation tips & resources for pet-friendly lodging

PawBoost • www.PawBoost.com

Uses social media sites and other free tools to post, search, promote and reunite lost & found pets

PetFinder • www.PetFinder.com

Locate local and out of area animal shelters and rescue organizations

Santa Clara County Office of Emergency Services
www.SCCgov.org/sites/oes

Coordinates county-wide all hazards preparedness, including AlertSCC Emergency Alert system & Ready SCC Mobile App