

Disasters and emergencies are without a doubt terrifying to think about and impossible to predict. That's why it's so important to be prepared and have your basic everyday essentials ready in case an evacuation is necessary.

Get an alert sticker A sticker displayed on a visible door or window is the best way to let rescuers know that there are animals inside. Include the types and number of pets as well as the name and phone number of your veterinarian. If you must evacuate with your pets write "EVACUATED" across the sticker. Alert stickers can be purchased online or at pet stores.

Arrange for a safe place Animals left in an evacuated home can face many life threatening hazards. Unfortunately not all disaster shelters accept animals so it is very important to have a back up plan. Call the local animal shelter to see if they provide emergency shelter or foster care. Make a list of pet friendly hotels that are outside of your immediate area. Ask friends and family members if they would be willing to take your pet in.

Put together an emergency kit People often forget to include items for their furry family members in their emergency pack. Include things like : a pet first aid kit, 3-7 days worth of food (keep an eye on the expiration dates), disposable litter trays and litter, dish soap and disinfectant, an extra harness and leash, copies of medical records, a 2 week supply of any medication your pet is on, a sturdy carrier or crate for each pet, and recent pictures of your pet in case you are separated and need to make "lost" posters.

No one ever wants to think that they will need an emergency kit or plan but it's imperative to have one in case. Emergencies come in many shapes and forms. Scary as they may be, we need to prepare ourselves and those around us as best we can.