

# In Case of Emergency...

by Danielle Regier

Disasters and emergencies are terrifying to think about and are sometimes 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, but being prepared for a disaster should also extend to care for your pet. There are a few basic things you can do to make sure all of your family is taken care of in case of emergency

**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 backup plan. Call your local animal shelter to see if they provide emergency shelter or foster care. Make a list of pet-friendly hotels and motels that are outside of your immediate area. Ask friends and family members if they would be willing to care for your pet temporarily.

**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 (ALWAYS 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 (again, watch for expirations!), 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.

*Have a Pet?  
Have a plan!  
Make sure there  
is a collar on  
during an emer-  
gency situation!*



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



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There are a number of different sources of information. To best understand how to help authorities in an emergency situation, visit FEMA's website for pet owners at:

<http://www.fema.gov/plan/prepare/animals.shtm>