

# At-A-Glance

## Pet Preparedness

If you are like millions of animal owners county-wide, your pet is an important member of your household. Unfortunately, animals are also affected by disaster.

Here are some year-round safety tips to prepare your pet for emergencies and some suggestions in case you have to evacuate with your pet.



### Evacuation with your Pets...

- If you evacuate your home, **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PETS BEHIND!** Pets most likely cannot survive on their own and if they do you may not be able to find them when you return.
- If you are going to a public shelter, it is important to understand that animals may not be allowed inside. Plan in advance for shelter alternatives that will work for both you and your pets; consider loved ones or friends outside of your immediate area who would be willing to host you and your pets in an emergency.
- Make an emergency kit specifically for your pets that includes extra food, water, and pet medications for three days.
- Make a back-up emergency plan in case you can't care for your animals yourself. Develop a buddy system with neighbors, friends and relatives to make sure that someone is available to care for or evacuate your pets if you are unable to do so.



### Winter Pet Safety Tips...

- Never leave pets outside when the temperature drops below freezing. Do not to keep them outdoors for lengthy periods of time during very cold weather.
- Pets that spend a lot of time outdoors need more food in the winter because keeping warm depletes their energy.
- Salt and other chemicals used to melt snow and ice can irritate the pads of your pet's paws and may be harmful if ingested.
- Antifreeze is a deadly poison, but it's sweet taste attracts animals and children.

### Summer Pet Safety Tips...

- Your pets should wear a collar with its rabies tag and identification at all times. Include a backup leash, collar and ID tag in your pet's emergency supply kit. Place copies of your pet's registration information, vaccination documents, and medical records in a waterproof container.
- If your pet will be outside in the heat for any period, your pet should have access to a completely shaded area and plenty of cool drinking water.

Sources: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty of Animals (ASPCA)



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