



## MONTHLY PREPAREDNESS TOPIC

### HOW TO PREPARE:

Whether you decide to stay in place in an emergency or evacuate to a safer location, you will need to make plans in advance for your pets. Keep in mind that what is best for you is also typically best for your pets.

#### ID AND VACCINATE YOUR PETS

- Make sure pets are wearing a collar at all times
- Have cell phone number on pet's tag
- Consider Microchipping your animal
- Make sure vaccinations are current

#### CREATE A DISASTER KIT

- Food/Water for at least 5 days
- Bowls and can opener, if necessary
- Medications and medical records stored in a waterproof container
- First-aid kit w/ pet first-aid book
- Animal waste disposal bags
- Sturdy leash, harness, or carrier
- Current photo of pet w/ description
- Detailed written instructions for care in case boarding is needed
- Vet's Phone number

## PETS IN DISASTERS

### IF YOU STAY HOME

- If you must stay home to wait out a storm or disaster, find a safe place in your home where you can all stay together and make it pet-friendly.
- Close off unsafe areas where frightened pets may hide.
- Move dangerous items such as tools or toxic products from the area.
- If you have a room you can designate ahead of time as the "safe room," put emergency supplies there.



### IF YOU EVACUATE

- If it's not safe for you, it's not safe for your pet; take them with you if you leave.
- Evacuate early: do not wait for a mandatory evacuation order. You may be required to leave your pet behind if you wait to be evacuated by emergency officials.
- Evacuating before conditions become dangerous and stressful will help keep your pet calm and more easily moved out of the area.



### AFTER THE DISASTER

- Your home may be a very different place after the emergency is over and, at first, it may be hard for your pets to adjust.
- Do not allow pets to roam loose. Familiar landmarks could have changed and your pet may get lost.
- While you assess home damage, keep animal on a leash or in a carrier so they don't escape if the house is damaged.
- Keep pets away from disaster sites. Paws, feet, noses, and airways could be damaged from the dust, hazardous materials, and debris common to post-disaster sites.
- Do not let your pet eat or drink something unless you are confident about the food or water's safety.
- Be patient with your pets after a disaster. Help them get back into their normal routine slowly.
- Be alert for wild animals that may have sought refuge in your house or yard and the potential threat they pose to your animal.



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