

# Disaster Supply Checklist For Pets

Stock up on non-perishables well ahead of time, add perishable items at the last minute, and have everything ready to go at a moment's notice. Keep everything accessible, stored in sturdy containers (duffle bags, covered trash containers, etc.) that can be carried easily. You should include the following in your pet disaster kit:

- Medications and medical records stored in a waterproof container and a first-aid kit. A pet first-aid book is also good to include.
- Sturdy leashes, harnesses, and carriers to transport pets safely and to ensure that your pets can't escape. Be sure to have a secure cage with no loose objects inside it to accommodate smaller pets. Carriers should be large enough for the animal to stand comfortably, turn around, and lie down. Your pet may have to stay in the carrier for hours at a time while you have taken shelter away from home.
- You may also need blankets or towels for bedding and warmth, and other special items.
- Current photos and descriptions of your pets to help others identify them in case you and your pets become separated and to prove that they are yours.
- Food and water for at least three days for each pet, bowls, cat litter and litter box, and a manual can opener.



- Information on feeding schedules, medical conditions, behavior problems, and the name and number of your veterinarian in case you have to board your pets or place them in foster care.
- Pet beds and toys, if you can easily take them, to reduce stress.
- Other useful items include newspapers, paper towels, plastic trash bags, grooming items, and household bleach.

## Other Evacuation Tips

- All mobile home residents should evacuate at the first sign of a disaster.
- Evacuate to the safest location you can that's as close as possible to home. Long-distance evacuation can be a problem when highways are crowded.



This information presented by Kern County Animal Control and the Humane Society of the United States.

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# ARE YOU READY?



## Kern County Animal Control

# Disaster Preparedness For Pet Owners



## Help Your Animals Stay Safe!

# Your Pet Depends On You In An Emergency!

When a disaster strikes, your pet depends on you to ensure that he or she will be safe and protected. A little planning now can save the life of your pet tomorrow! These important rules can help save your pet's life and save you from many sleepless nights.

**Always prepare for the unexpected.** A disaster can strike at any time whether you are home or not. If you can't reach your pet, you will need to have someone in place that can.

**Be ready to evacuate.** In the event of an emergency, you may have to leave your home at a moment's notice. This means that you need to have essential supplies ready in case you receive the call to evacuate quickly. It is also important to ensure that you know where to find temporary housing for both you and your pet.

Emergencies can be stressful times for animals as well as people. Be sure to familiarize your pet with how you will transport him or her to reduce stress on both of you.

This brochure is designed to help you and your pets be prepared in the event of a disaster.



If you evacuate, take your pets!

## If You Evacuate, Take Your Pets!

- If you leave, even if you think you may be gone for only a few hours, take your pets. Once you leave your home, you have no way of knowing how long you'll be kept out of the area. You may not be able to go back for your pets.
- Leave early. Don't wait for a mandatory evacuation order. An unnecessary trip is far better than waiting too long to leave safely with your pets. If you wait to be evacuated by emergency officials, you may be told to leave your pets behind.

## Don't Forget ID!

- Your pets should be wearing up-to-date identification at all times, not just during times of disaster. Include your name and phone number, and if possible the name and number of a friend or relative outside your immediate area. This helps ensure that if your pet is lost, there is a number on the tag that will be answered even if you are out of your home.

## Find A Safe Place Ahead of Time!

- Don't wait until disaster strikes to research areas that will be safe for you and your pets. Contact hotels and motels outside the area to check on pet policies. Don't forget to ask about restrictions on numbers of pets as well as on sizes and species. Ask if a "no pet" policy would be waived in the event of an emergency or disaster. Make a list of pet-friendly places and keep it handy. Call for a reservation as soon as you think you would need to evacuate.
- Check with friends, relatives or others outside your immediate area. Find out who will be able to shelter you and your animals or just your animals if necessary. If you have more than one pet, you may have to be prepared to house them separately.
- Keep a list of boarding facilities and veterinary offices that would be available to shelter your animals in the event of an emergency.

## If You Don't Evacuate, Shelter In Place!

- If your family and pets must wait out a storm or other disaster at home, identify a safe area of your home where you can all stay together.
- Keep dogs on leashes and cats in carriers, and make sure they are wearing identification.
- Have any medications and a supply of pet food and water inside water-tight containers, along with your other emergency supplies.

## In Case You're Not Home!

- An evacuation order may come, or a disaster may strike when you're at work or out of the house. Make arrangements well in advance for a trusted neighbor to take your pets and meet you at a specified location.
- Be sure that the person is comfortable with your pets, knows where your animals are likely to be, knows where your disaster supplies are kept, and has a key to your home.



**For more disaster preparedness for pets, log onto [www.hsus.org](http://www.hsus.org) and [www.asPCA.org](http://www.asPCA.org).**