

## BUILDING YOUR DISASTER KIT FOR COMPANION ANIMALS



### FOR ALL ANIMALS:

- ✓ **FOOD**
  - Keep at least a one-week supply stored in airtight containers
  - Rotate food every three months
  - Include a can opener, spoon and extra bowl
- ✓ **WATER**
  - Keep at least a two-week supply stored in airtight containers
  - Rotate water every two months
  - Include an extra bowl
- ✓ **IDENTIFICATION**
  - Animals should always wear a collar and tag
  - Identify your animal permanently with a microchip
  - Keep current photos of your animals
  - Include yourself in some photos as proof of ownership
- ✓ **FIRST AID / MEDICATION**
  - Prepare or buy a basic animal first-aid kit
  - Include at least one week's supply of any long-term medications
  - Create a collar tag indicating medical needs
- ✓ **CLEANING SUPPLIES**
  - Prepare a small container of dish soap and disinfectant
  - Include several rolls of paper towels in plastic bags

### ADDITIONAL DISASTER SUPPLY ITEMS

Below are several additional items you should include in your disaster kits, depending on what type of animal(s) you have.



#### DOGS

Pooper scooper and/or small plastic bags  
Collapsible crate or kennel  
Harness, leash and cable screw/stake



#### CATS

Extra litter box and scooper  
One week's supply of litter  
Collapsible crate or kennel  
Harness and leash (in case you need to exercise your cat in an open area)



#### HORSES, SWINE AND CATTLE

Halter and lead rope for each animals  
Extra feeding bucket, water trough, salt lick and tie-out rope  
Clean garbage cans for large quantities of water  
Two weeks supply of bedding materials  
Fence panels to create smaller enclosures  
Manure fork



#### BIRDS, REPTILES AND RABBITS

At least one week's supply of cage liners  
A long-handled net, heavy towel and blanket  
A flashlight and extra batteries to regulate the bird's daily schedule  
Extra water bottles or bowls  
An evacuation cage or carrier

## ANIMAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST



- Make an animal disaster supply kit for each animal** (see previous page)
- Identify several possible evacuation locations** that accept animals and are located in an area that won't be affected by the same disaster. Suggestions include boarding kennels, veterinary clinics with boarding space, grooming facilities, dog and cat groups, and training clubs. Consider friends and family members and look for hotels that accept animals, too. Wherever you go, make sure to take your animals with you, don't ever leave them behind.
- Start a buddy system with someone in your neighborhood.** Agree to check on each others animals during a disaster if one you is not at home. Exchange veterinary information and complete a permission slip at the vet, which authorizes your "buddy" to get necessary emergency treatment for your animal if you cannot be reached. Also inform pet sitters about the disaster plan to be used for your animals in your absence.
- Have an assembled cat carrier for each cat in your household.** Also be sure to have a shoebox size litter box and a food and a water dish to use in the carrier. An "EvacSack" is an alternative to a carrier. It is similar to a pillowcase, but it is much smaller, safer and more secure way to transport a small animal. Purchase one by contacting Animal Care Equipment and Services at 1-800-338-2237(ACES).
- Ask about your veterinarian's disaster** plan since your animal may need medical attention after a disaster. If your regular veterinarian does not have a plan, locate a veterinarian in your community who does so that you know in advance where to take an injured animal in an emergency situation.
- If you use an outdoor dog run,** make sure it is not near where any potentially dangerous debris may fall (tree limbs, shingles, power lines, chimney bricks). Include heavy-duty wire cutters in your kit to free a dog from the run in case something falls on the enclosure and blocks the door.
- Comfort your animals during a disaster.** They are frightened, too. If an animal is not ready to be comforted though, do not force him/her. This is especially true for cats. Let an animal come to you when he/she is ready.
- Know where the animal shelters or animal rescue organizations are in your area.** You may need to visit them after a disaster to look for a missing animal. Start looking for a missing animal as soon as you realize he/she is gone, as some shelters may not be able to house large numbers of displaced animals that arrive during a disaster for a very long time.

## ANIMAL FIRST-AID KIT



### A BASIC ANIMAL FIRST-AID KIT SHOULD CONTAIN:

- Conforming bandage (3" x 5")
- Absorbent gauze pads (4" x 4")
- Absorbent gauze roll (3" x 1 yard)
- Non-adherent absorbent dressing
- Cotton-tipped applicators (3")
- Antiseptic wipes
- Emollient wipes
- Tweezers
- Scissors
- Instant cold pack
- Zinc oxide tape (3/4" x 1 yard)
- Latex gloves
- Muzzle (injured animals sometimes bite)
- First-aid guide for companion animals (available at animal supply stores and bookstores)
- Hand towels
- Slip lead

**\*\*\*Keep these first-aid items in a waterproof container with your disaster supplies, along with a copy of your companion animal's medical records.**

## FAMILY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST



Disasters often strike with little time to act, making it even more important to prepare now for a sudden emergency. Use the checklist below to protect yourself, your family and your companion animals. Check off each item as you complete it.

- CALL YOUR LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE OR AMERICAN RED CROSS CHAPTER**
  - Find out which disasters could occur in your area
  - Ask how to prepare for each disaster
  - Ask how you would be notified of an emergency
  - Learn your community's evacuation routes
  - Ask about special assistance for the elderly, disable or those with special needs
  - The American Red Cross website is: <http://www.redcross.org> On that page, at the top, there is an area to "Enter your zip code to find the Red Cross nearest you"
  
- CALL EMPLOYEES AND SCHOOLS**
  - Ask your workplace about its emergency plans
  - Learn about emergency plans for your children's school or day care center
  
- CREATE AN EMERGENCY PLAN**
  - Discuss the dangers of fire, severe weather, earthquakes and other emergencies
  - Discuss how you would respond to each disaster that could occur
  - Discuss what to do about power outages and personal injuries
  - Draw a floor plan of your home. Mark two escape routes from each room
  - Learn how to turn off the water, gas and electricity at main switches
  - Post emergency telephone numbers near telephones
  - Teach children how and when to call 911, police and fire
  - Instruct household members to turn on the radio for emergency information
  - Pick one out-of-state and one local friend or relative whom family members can call if separated by disaster (*it is often easier to call out-of-state than within the affected area*)
  - Teach children how to make long-distance telephone calls
  - Pick two meeting places:
    - 1) A place near your home in case of a fire
    - 2) A place outside your neighborhood in case you cannot return home after a disaster
  - Take a basic first aid and CPR class
  - Keep family records in a waterproof, fire-proof container

**PREPARE A DISASTER SUPPLY KIT**

Assemble supplies you might need in an evacuation. Store them in an easy-to-carry container such as a backpack or duffle bag. Include the following items:

- Water (one gallon per person per day) stored in sealed, unbreakable containers. Identify the storage date and replace every six months
- Non-perishable packaged or canned food and a non-electric can opener
- A change of clothing, rain gear and sturdy shoes
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- A first aid kit and prescription medications
- An extra pair of glasses
- A battery-powered radio, flashlight and extra batteries
- Credit cards and cash
- An extra set of car keys
- A list of family physicians
- A list of important family medical information; the style and serial number of medical devices such as pacemakers
- Special items for infants, elderly or disabled family members
- Food, water, medications, cleaning supplies, identification and first-aid supplies for all of your companion animals, packed in a separate container in case you have to leave your animals with a friend or relative

**HUNT FOR HOME HAZARDS**

- Repair defective electrical wiring and leaky gas connections
- Fasten shelves and brace overhead light fixtures
- Place large, heavy objects on lower shelves
- Hang pictures and mirrors away from beds
- Strap water heater to wall studs
- Repair cracks in ceilings or foundations
- Store weed killers, pesticides and flammable products away from heat sources
- Place oily polishing rags or waste in covered metal cans
- Clean and repair chimneys, flue pipes, vent connectors and gas vents

**PREPARE AN EMERGENCY CAR KIT THAT INCLUDES:**

- Battery-powered radio, flashlight and extra batteries
- Blanket
- Booster cables
- Fire extinguisher (5 lb., A-B-C type)
- First-aid kit and manual
- Bottled water and non-perishable, high-energy foods such as granola bars, raisins and peanut butter
- Maps, a shovel and flares
- Tire repair kit and pump

# FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN



## FAMILY INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate: \_\_\_\_\_

## LOCAL EMERGENCY CONTACT

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate: \_\_\_\_\_

## NEAREST RELATIVE

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate: \_\_\_\_\_

## OUT-OF-STATE EMERGENCY CONTACT

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate: \_\_\_\_\_

## FAMILY NUMBERS

Father: (work) \_\_\_\_\_ (cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Mother: (work) \_\_\_\_\_ (cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Other: (work) \_\_\_\_\_ (cell) \_\_\_\_\_

## EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

In a life threatening emergency, dial **911** or the local emergency medical services system number

Police: \_\_\_\_\_ Fire: \_\_\_\_\_

Hospital: (name) \_\_\_\_\_ (number): \_\_\_\_\_

## FAMILY PHYSICIANS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

## REUNION LOCATIONS

Landmark/Location near your home: \_\_\_\_\_

Outside your neighborhood: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Best route to try first: \_\_\_\_\_