

# Disaster Pet Preparedness

## **BE PREPARED**

Most of us who hear or read of a disaster think, "This will never happen to me." It's best to be prepared whether disaster strikes or not and Animal Humane wants to help you.

This is the Animal Humane Disaster Preparedness checklist for your home and car. Please remember to always take your animals with you when there's an emergency. If disaster strikes and you cannot get to your home, use a pre-planned "buddy system" and call your neighbor to get your pets. Communicate and practice your emergency plan with your friends and family by doing this you will be prepared!

## **PET PREPAREDNESS KIT**

### **HOME:**

1. Keep at least one week supply of pet food in an air tight container.
2. Buy pop top cans small enough for one feeding since you may not have a way to refrigerate partially used cans. Rotate food at least once every three months.
3. Include a feeding dish; spoon, and a hand crank can opener in case you do not have pop-tops
4. If tap water is not suitable for humans to drink, it is not safe for animals to drink so have at least a (1) one week supply at all times and store it in plastic containers and keep in a cool dark place. Rotate water once every (2) two months.
5. Have disposable pooper scooper bags for dogs.
6. For cats you'll need a small litter box, a supply of cat litter, and plastic bags for cleaning the litter box.
7. Have a small container of dish soap for cleaning and a roll of paper towels.
8. Have identification on your pet at all times and keep an extra collar with current ID in your disaster preparedness kit.
9. Make sure your current address and phone number are on any and all of your pets' ID tags (Animals that come into shelters during a disaster with I.D. and/or microchip have a greater chance of being reunited with their owners).
10. Keep a harness for both dogs and cats in your kit. A dog can slip out of a collar but not a harness and cats can be walked should they be confined for a long period of time.
11. Make sure you have a carrier or collapsible crate to transport your pet or to keep it in while you are displaced; it should be large enough for a litter box, food, and water.
12. If your dog or cat is on long-term medications, always have at least a (2) two week supply since you may not be able to refill it in a disaster.
13. Keep copies of each animal's medical records in your kit.
14. Keep a first aid book and kit for your pet with your supplies.
15. Include current photos of your pet(s) AND include pictures of YOU with your pets to show proof of ownership if necessary.
16. Large towel for bedding and toys your pet likes.
17. Extra write on ID tags in case your contact information changes during the event.

### **CAR:**

1. Keep many of the same items in your car that you do in your home however keep the smaller sizes. Include the following items in your car:

- Food
- Water

- Carrier
- Leash & Collar
- Litter & Box
- Water dish AND food dish
- Medical records
- Medications
- Animal ID and photos

You should always have at both your home and in your car: cash on hand (credit cards are no good without power), a flashlight and a portable radio with plenty of batteries and the locations and phone numbers of family, nearest shelters, boarding kennels, animal friendly motels and veterinary offices. Because human evacuation shelters do not allow animals, locate a place where you can take and keep your pet. Places to consider include the home of family or friends. Some hotels/motels will allow small animals temporarily.

Place a Rescue Alert Sticker on your window or front door this lets rescue workers know there may be companion animals in your home.

Don't wait until it's too late. You owe it to your animals to plan ahead!!!

For more information contact Gary at [GaryW@AnimalHumaneNM.org](mailto:GaryW@AnimalHumaneNM.org) or call 505.255.5523 ext. 103.