

# Emergency Planning For Your Pet



## Be Prepared

In the event of an emergency, you must know how to ensure for your pet's well-being. There are several options available to you, so it is wise to plan ahead. Planning may make the difference in saving the life of your pet.

♥ You will not be able to take your pet with you to the Reception Centre. They will, however, ask what pets you have and where they are situated. Special Emergency signs are available to post on your doors. If you have warning about an emergency, you will have time to evacuate to a safe place. If you don't have a warning, the few moments you **take now to prepare** may save your pet's life. Contact your veterinarian, local animal shelter, kennel or municipal administration about any plans they have in place for animals. Be sure your pet and its travel kennel have proper identification tags or labels.

♥ You can leave your pet at home, as long as it is in a safe room or area. However, don't leave pets in the house if there are broken gas mains or downed electrical wires. **Never** leave your pet tied - it has no way of escape. Keep it inside, if possible, in one or two rooms. Paper the floor if you need to. If you have more than one pet, don't leave pets together that may become incompatible over time. Leave the cats in one room and the dogs in another room. Don't leave them barricaded on the first floor or basement as flooding may trap them.

♥ Ensure your pet has an adequate supply of food and water to survive on for at least one week. Leave only dry food, as semi-moist or moist foods will go rank over that period of time. Water and food can be left in a self-feeder, available at most pet food stores. Ensure that neither can be knocked over and that other animals do not have access to it.

## Before an Emergency

Always keep a COLLAR and ID TAG on your pets - if you're worried about the tags catching on something, write your name and phone number on a flat buckle collar. An extra one should be kept with your supplies should the permanent ones get lost during a disaster. Have a spare temporary tag in your supplies that you can write on - if you are going to be living somewhere else for a period of time, put the temporary phone number and address on the tag. Keep a proper fitting dog harness in your supplies to be used when you walk your dog - this is a stressful time for your pets too. A frightened animal can slip out of a collar, but not a harness.

Have a sturdy crate to confine your pet. This is important if it's injured or if you'll be staying somewhere that your dog will be unable to roam freely. Remember that fences will likely be down in the aftermath of a disaster. In a situation where emergency housing is needed, a crate trained dog may help convince officials to allow them onsite.

Ensure the crate is large enough for your animal to lie down and allow room for a food and water dish. If possible, have two crates and stash them in different places so that if there is damage to your home, at least one crate can be found and used.

## Pet Emergency Kit

♥ **FOOD** - Use the brand that your dog is used to and have enough to last one week for each of the dogs in your household. Buy cans small enough to be used at one feeding since you may not have a way to properly refrigerate a partially used can of food. If possible, buy pop top cans so you do not need a can opener. If not available, be sure to have a can opener in your supplies. Don't forget a food dish or paper plates, a spoon to scoop/mix the food. Be sure to rotate the food so it remains fresh.

♥ **WATER** - Have enough water to last at least one week for each dog and be sure to rotate the water so it remains fresh.

♥ **SANITATION** - A pooper scoop or plastic baggies for picking up after your dog. Also, plastic bags for disposing of your dog's waste and other garbage.

♥ **CLEANING SUPPLIES** - A small container of dish soap for cleaning out your dogs dishes. And paper towels for drying dishes and other cleanup.

♥ **LEASH/HARNESS** - You may want to leave a leash in your car also. Keep your dog on a harness, even the best behaved pet may panic during an emergency and in strange surroundings.

♥ **BLANKET and TOWELS** - A favourite blanket, toys and comfort items.

♥ **MEDICATION** - A week's supply of any medication your pet is taking. Each time you renew a prescription, put the freshest one in your emergency kit, using instead, the one that was in the kit.

♥ **FIRST AID KIT** - This kit should include basic first aid for pets.

- Conforming bandages (3" x 5")
- Absorbent gauze pads (4" x 4")
- Absorbent gauze rolls (3" x 1 yard)
- Cotton tipped applicators (1 box)
- Antiseptic wipes (1 package)
- Emollient cream (1 container)
- Tweezers and scissors
- Instant cold pack
- Latex disposable gloves
- Reserve supply of your pet's medication
- Current record of vaccinations
- Foil space blanket
- Kaopectate (for diarrhoea)
- Nail clippers
- Rectal thermometer
- Antibiotic ointment
- Eye and ear ointment
- Antihistamines (for allergic reaction)
- Peptobismol (for gastrointestinal upsets)



**Note:**

1. Always have several kits, one in your car, in the house with your crate, and in your emergency totebag. Remember, your first aid kits are not to replace veterinary care, but to help until such care is available.
2. Always carry a current colour picture of your pet in your purse or wallet, and details of inoculations, tattoo, microchip and/or licence tag numbers.

# Are You Prepared?

As the owners/breeders of dogs, we have very special concerns. If something should happen to delay your return home, who should be notified? If your dogs are at home, and not kenneled, do neighbours have access to your house? Do they and the dogs know and trust each other? Are friends willing to care for them temporarily? Where is your food bin kept? Does your dog have any special diet or medications? If your delay is for even a few days, do you have a particular kennel you would prefer your dogs go to and does the kennel operator know your wishes? If your dogs are already kenneled, is it in your contract what would happen if you were late? Is there a time limit the kennel is willing to keep your animals?

Although no one hopes for or preplans our deaths, it can happen in an instant. Is the care/dispersal of your animals covered in your will? Will your estate pay for kenneling of your dogs/cats/horses, etc. until new homes are found? If they are to be placed, whom do you wish to co-ordinate this? Will your vet release your health records? Do you have written guidelines? Where are your records kept? Are the registration papers handy? What are the animal's call names? For individual identification, are they tattooed, noseprinted or have micro chip implants? Are there any special concerns in regards to health and temperament? Do any of the dogs have breeder's contracts, i.e. option of buy-back? Should they be spayed/neutered prior to placing or be left intact? For some animals, as unpleasant as it seems, perhaps euthanasia would be more humane than placement in a new home. If breeding animals are to be intact, are there specific guidelines you would recommend, i.e. best lines to breed within, easy and early whelping, difficult pregnancies, parenting skills, abilities of stud dogs.

If you are a breeder, will your records enable previous puppy buyers to be notified if necessary? Who is to notify the CKC/AKC re. your death or transferring of dog ownership? If you are caring for someone else's pets you have unique responsibilities for them. Are all the dogs identified in some way? It can be very difficult to prove an unidentified dog is legally yours, if not tattooed. Are you carrying information with you about the dog's name, both its registered and call name, its owner and their address? Does it have any particular quirks, fears, diet, medication? If you're unable to care for them, does anybody else know about their habits and personalities? If the owners are not available, who can accept the returning dogs?

This is not meant to sound like the voice of doom but our dogs and other animals give so unstintingly of their love and energy, and we owe them all we can to provide for their welfare.



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