



# Information Series

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## Disaster Planning For Family Pets

### IF DISASTER STRUCK TODAY...

#### What would happen to your pet?

Family disaster and emergency plans need to include your animal family members too. There are so many kinds of disasters that no one plan can cover all the possibilities. But a certain amount of planning is possible. Considering a worst-case scenario, like a severe earthquake or a volcanic eruption, gives us some tools that may help in other disasters. Some common problems during disasters are loss of power and communication and the need to relocate.

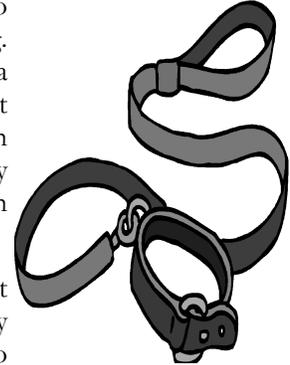
#### THESE ARE THINGS YOU CAN DO NOW:

- Make SURE your pet is wearing identification NOW. **This is the single most important step you can take.** A collar and tag are great but a microchip ID is very important, too. A microchip provides permanent ID which can't come loose or be removed.
- Take color pictures of your pets. (If possible, use a picture of you with the animals to help document ownership.) Store them in a re-sealable plastic bag. You may need them to help identify pets lost during a disaster.
- Set aside a week's supply of food and water for your pet with your own supplies. Get canned pet foods - the kind with pull off lids. Set aside food dishes. If you have cats, don't forget about kitty litter and a litterbox. Small animal food and bird seed can be stored in air-tight containers. Give thought as to how you will keep reptiles and tropical fish tanks warm in case of a power outage.
- Keep a leash and cable handy. If fences blow down or are destroyed, a cable provides a quick



During a disaster it is common for fences and trees to blow down and animals to escape. For this reason, keep an ID on

and safe way to confine your dog. Make sure you have a carrier for each cat you own, big enough that the cat can stay in it for a while with room for a litter box.



- Have an agreement with friends or family out of the area who are willing to house your pets should you be unable to keep them for a time. Remember many emergency shelters will not allow animals. Having a safe place for your animals to go is essential.
- Keep an extra supply of your pet's medications on hand. You may have to leave your pet at an animal shelter facility until things get settled. (Have a copy of their medical records in a waterproof container.)
- Try to feed and care for your pets at the same time as usual, even during a crisis. Pets have a strong sense of time and routine and this can be comforting for them.
- Know the location of your local animal shelter. Animal Services is located at 3120 Martin Way E. in Olympia. If the shelter is not usable, for instance in a severe earthquake, emergency arrangements for sheltering lost pets will probably be at the Thurston County Fairgrounds on Carpenter Road.
- Network with neighbors to see if they will help your pets if you are not home when disaster strikes. Offer to do the same for them.
- Research the plans your local community and government have made for caring for the animals in an emergency. Sign up to help.



### Disaster Kit for Pets

- Sturdy leashes, harnesses and /or carriers
- Food, water and bowls
- Litter and box
- Medications and medical records
- First aid kit
- Current photos of pets
- Information on your pets' schedules, medical and behavioral concerns
- Contact information for you, your vet and your emergency contacts
- Pet beds and toys if easily transportable

### CONSIDERATIONS FOR FARM ANIMALS

If you have large animals such as cattle, horses or llamas, consider networking with neighbors to make sure that the animals can be quickly restrained if they break out of fields or barns. Keep a 55 gallon drum of drinking water available. Consider microchipping your large animals. Their need for identification is no less than the identification need for a dog or cat, especially in times of crises. A simple name tag should always be attached to a large animal's halter or collar.



Consider having a first aid kit in an easily accessible location for your large animal. Horses are particularly prone to injuries from fencing and other debris.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[www.humanesociety.org/issues/animal\\_rescue/tips/disaster\\_preparedness\\_1.html](http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/animal_rescue/tips/disaster_preparedness_1.html)

[www.fema.gov/plan/prepare/animals.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/plan/prepare/animals.shtm)

[www.fema.gov/plan/prepare/livestock.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/plan/prepare/livestock.shtm)

[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

**Animal Services'**  
**LOST PET HOTLINE**  
telephone number is  
**(360) 352-2510, Option 5.**

In making your emergency and disaster plans, remember ALL your family members. Small mammals, such as guinea pigs, ferrets and hamsters need provisions and may need help as well.



If our facility is in usable condition, Animal Services will offer short term housing for most small mammals during times of real crises.

## PET FIRST AID KIT

### *What you'll need:*

- A current pet first-aid book
- Sterile gauze pads (3"x 3" and 2"x 2") and gauze bandage rolls (1" and 2")
- First aid adhesive tape, 1" roll
- Cotton swabs (Q-tips®)
- Tweezers
- Scissors
- Plastic freezer/sandwich bag
- Antibacterial ointment
- Antiseptic cleansing wipes
- Small bottle of 3% hydrogen peroxide
- Kaopectate® or Pepto-Bismol®
- Eye wash and eye dropper
- Styptic pencil or cornstarch (stems blood flow from minor cuts)
- Mineral oil (a lubricant and laxative when given by mouth)
- Digital or rectal thermometer in a plastic case
- Leather work gloves (to protect you from being bitten)
- Latex gloves
- Leash
- Thin rope
- Splint materials (tongue depressor, 12-inch wooden ruler or thick magazine)
- Place the above items along with color photos of your pets in a plastic storage box, tackle box or other container with a lid.

