



PET PREPAREDNESS

When you developed your family emergency plan, did you include plans for your pets? It's important to include provisions for your pets because they depend on you for care. Pets also can provide psychological comfort after an earthquake or other disaster.

Plan: What Will You Do in an Emergency?

- Create a plan to get away
- Secure appropriate **LODGING** in advance: Know where you and your pet will be going after an emergency
- Develop alternate plans: Have pre-planned **BOARDING INFORMATION** for your pets in case you are sick, injured or have to evacuate during a disaster
- Keep Current Documentation: It is a good idea to **MAINTAIN CURRENT RECORDS** for each of your pets. During disasters this information is useful in the event your pet is missing or taken to a shelter.

Prepare: Make a Pet Disaster Kit

You should have the following items assembled and ready to take in a crisis (keep in a duffel bag or sturdy container, in a spot where it's handy to grab):

- Wire **CAGE** or carrier with good air circulation, along with bedding and cover for sun, rain, ash, etc., and/or sturdy leashes and harnesses or collars, with a ground mounting device or carabiner for tying pets up temporarily.
- **FOOD, WATER** (for several days), bowls, cat litter/pan, pooper scooper, can opener.
- Several days supply of **MEDICATIONS** (including anti-stress remedies) recommended by your vet.
- Name and number of your **VETERINARIAN**; info on feeding schedules, vaccination dates, medical and behavioral problems, and any other special issues your pet may have (attach to the cage in a waterproof, chew-resistant bag).
- Current **PHOTOS** of you with your pets in case you get separated (in your wallet).
- **OUTSIDE CONTACT INFO**: your own, plus someone who can take custody of your pets if you are unable to do so (attach to carrier), as well as an out-of-state contact.
- Pet **BEDS AND TOYS**, if easily transportable

Respond: What to Do If Your Pet is Lost

- Immediately call or **VISIT THE NEAREST ANIMAL SHELTER** to report your pet missing
- When it is safe, return to your neighborhood to post or distribute "Lost Pet Posters". Be sure and include your name, home address, and home and work phone numbers. It's always helpful to include a **CURRENT PHOTOGRAPH** of your pet

- When it is safe, **CONTINUE TO SEARCH THE AREA** for your missing pet. A frightened animal may stay hidden for days.

Animals Other than Dogs and Cats



- **HORSES AND LIVESTOCK** need their own unique evacuation plan. Establish pre-designated plans before an emergency

- **BIRDS** should be transported in a secure travel cage with a blanket for cold weather or a plant mister for hot weather



- **SNAKES** can be transported in a pillowcase but must be transferred to more secure housing when you reach the evacuation site. Take a water bowl large enough for soaking, and a heat source. Bring food if they need to eat often.

- **SMALL MAMMALS AND CHICKENS** should be transported in secure carriers suitable for animals to live in while they are being sheltered. Take bedding materials, cage liners, food bowls and water bottles.



After the Disaster

After the crisis has passed, it may be some time before you can return to your home, so be prepared for a stay of several days or even a week or two. Keep in mind that even if your house is intact and you are allowed to return, the area may not yet be safe for you pets.

Risks after a fire include burned or cut paws, eating or inhaling toxic substances or residues, escaping because of downed fences or other damage, loss of shelter and shade, and a lack of water supply, power supply, and other services. Many similar risks will be present after an earthquake or other disaster.

Keep in mind that when animals return to a changed landscape, they will be upset, disoriented, and easily stressed. Give them as much calm and normalcy as you can, and follow similar rituals whenever possible.

Pet Preparedness Websites

The Humane Society of the United States
www.hsus.org

American Red Cross:
 Pet Emergency Tips
www.prepare.org

Department of Homeland Security
www.ready.gov

State of California Agriculture Department
www.cdffa.ca.gov

U.C. Davis Site for Horses
www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu



This Bulletin is produced as part of the Emergency Survival Program (ESP). ESP is an awareness campaign designed to increase home, neighborhood, business and school emergency preparedness. ESP was developed by the County of Los Angeles. The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) and representatives from Contra Costa, Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, Marin, Mono, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, and Ventura counties, Southern California Edison, the Southern California Earthquake Center and the American Red Cross assist in the development of campaign materials and coordination of the campaign.