



SPECIAL FEATURE

Pet Disaster Preparedness

For many of us, our pets are as much a part of our family as any person. They entertain, love us unconditionally, and are trustworthy confidantes. In good times and bad, they're there for us.

Sadly, when disasters strike, we are often caught off-guard when it comes to our pets. To help your clients be prepared, here is a quick guide to creating a [pet emergency plan](#). Feel free to share this information with them in person or via email.

Ensure a Safe Place

If it's not safe for you to stay home, it's not safe for your pets. If a disaster strikes, know what evacuation routes to take and be aware of pet friendly places along the way. Be sure to call ahead, as some places will waive pet restrictions during a disaster.

If you have to seek refuge in an emergency shelter, be aware that generally only service animals are allowed. You may be able to shelter your animal with veterinarians, animal hospitals, and pet boarding facilities.

Keep a copy of your pet's medical records in your emergency preparedness kit, as most facilities will not board animals without this information.

Be aware that animal behavior can change dramatically during disasters. Having a plan for sheltering your pet will help to reduce the amount of stress both you and your pets are under.

In Case You're Separated

Anything can happen during a disaster including being separated from your pet.

It's important to keep recent photos of you with your pet in your emergency kit. If possible, look into [having your animal microchipped](#) and be sure to keep your contact information up to date in the system.

It's critical to remember to never leave animals tied/caged indoors or outdoors during a disaster. This can mean the difference between life or death of your pets.

Prepare a Disaster Kit

Just as you should have a disaster kit prepared for you and your family, you should also have [one for your pets](#). When you're putting this kit together, keep these items in mind:

- **Five days' worth of pet food and water** - Be sure to include bowls and a manual can opener if your pet eats canned food.
- **Medicines and medical records** - Keep these in a waterproof container.
- **Leashes, harnesses and carriers** - These items prevent pets from running away under stress.
- **Litter box/pooper scooper and plastic bags** - Just in case.
- **Current photo of you with your pet** - This will help anyone who finds your animal identify you as its owner.
- **A written copy of important things to know** - Things such as your pet's feeding schedule, medical conditions and any behavioral issues in case you have to board your pet. Learn how to prepare your pets for an emergency evacuation and help them recover afterward.





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In an emergency, your pets will be even more dependent on you for their safety and well-being. Your family's disaster plans must include your furry family members too. Learn what to do to keep your beloved pets safe!

Thank you to our Big "I" Flood program partner Selective for sharing these tips. Learn more about the Big "I" Flood program at www.iiaba.net/Flood.