



# Disaster Planning for Your Pets

## Understanding Your Pet's Needs

### Have a Plan, Make a Kit

- **Have a safe place to take your pets.** Network now to find alternative housing for your pet during a disaster through nearby friends or family members in your community. Have a backup plan just in case you need to take your pet farther away from home.
- If you evacuate your home, **do not leave pets behind.** Pets cannot survive on their own, and you may not be able to find them when you return.
- **Have current information on identification tags and have them securely fastened to your pet's collar.** If your pet gets lost, his tag is his ticket home. Take photos now of your pet for identification purposes. Send that photo to a relative or friend in another community or state.
- If you are unable to return to your home right away, **find boarding for your pet.** Remember, most kennels, animal shelters, and veterinary offices will need your pet's vaccination records.

### Pet Survival Kit Checklist

- Veterinary records
- Cat litter and cat litter pan
- Can opener, food dishes, enough pet food and bottled water to last three days. (Rotate the food and bottled water every 6 months to keep your supply fresh and wholesome.)
- Leash or harness, muzzle, and toys
- Medications, making sure medications are not expired. At every change of daylight savings time, when you change your clocks, re-fresh your pet survival kit.
- Cage or carrier for your pet, regardless of the size of your pet. You should always keep your supplies with the cage or carrier so you can easily transport them in.
- Write down and keep your emergency phone numbers in a small address book inside the kit.



## During the Disaster

- ➔ **Tune to your local radio stations for disaster evacuation information.**

### AM stations

KTMS – 990 KZSB – 1290  
KUHL – 1410 KINF – 1440

### FM Stations

KCSB – 91.9 KSYV- 96.7 (KMIX)  
KSBL – 101.7 KTYD – 99.9  
KRAZ – 105.9

### Spanish Stations

KIST – 107.7 KSPE – 94.5

- ➔ If you must leave your home due to a disaster, **the American Red Cross will have emergency evacuation shelters** where you and your family can go.
- ➔ **The American Red Cross will work with Animal Services to determine how your animals will be cared for** if this is needed. For public health reasons, most emergency shelters cannot accept pets, with the exception of assistance animals.
- ➔ **If you have to leave your pet at home, there are some precautions you can take.** Keep your pet in a safe quiet area inside your home. Never leave your pet chained or loose outside! Put up a sign at your front door, telling firefighters or police where your pet is in the house. Write down your phone number on that sign where you can pick up messages.

## If You Have Livestock

- ➔ Plan now for the possibility that you and your animals will need to evacuate. **Plan out multiple evacuation routes and sheltering locations in advance.**
- ➔ The evacuation sites should have food, water, and veterinary care, garbage containers for waste disposal, and some type of shade for shelter.
- ➔ **Trucks and trailers or other vehicles transporting livestock should be available** along with experience handlers and drivers to transport them. Try your evacuation plan out first hand.
- ➔ If you find that you cannot evacuate your animals from your property, you need to decide immediately whether to move large animals to another location or turn them in to a large pasture. **Your decision needs to be based on your personal safety, the safety of your property, and the type of disaster you are in.**
- ➔ **Identify your livestock by having them microchipped or freeze-marked now.** Talk to your veterinarian about the alternatives. If you think you can write your name and phone number on one of their front hooves, try it out now.