

# Emergency Preparedness Checklist

Use this form as a guide to research what is available locally for pets during emergencies and to assemble what your pets will need if you need to evacuate or if someone else would need to rescue your pets. Post it in a convenient place for others who may need to rescue your pets.

**Arrange with a trusted neighbor, nearby friend, or family member to be responsible for your pet in case you are not home, or are not able to get home.** Make sure they have the key to your house and are familiar with and comfortable with your pets. If evacuation is necessary, ensure that they are willing to take your pets, know the location of your pet carriers, crates, leashes, etc., as well as your pet emergency "go-kit." Pre-arrange how/where you would meet, and exchange emergency contact information, including places where your pets would be welcome and could be temporarily sheltered.

Contact name and phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Since evacuation shelters for people generally do not accept pets (except for service animals), you must plan ahead to make sure you know where your pets would have a safe place to stay once evacuated.**

Shelters accepting pets \_\_\_\_\_

**Make sure that your pet is wearing up-to-date identification information at all times.** This includes listing not just your home phone number on their tag, but also your cell phone number, or even the number of a friend or relative outside of your area. If your pet were to become lost, you want to make sure that the contact number on their tag will be answered even if you are not at home.

Tags on pets \_\_\_\_\_

**Have crates or carriers for all of your pets that are sturdy and able to be secured.** Clearly print your name and contact information on the carrier in indelible ink. Cat carriers should be large enough to hold two small dishes and a small litter pan and still allow enough room for your cat to turn and lie down, and stand to use the litter box. Dog crates should be large enough to hold two no-spill bowls and allow room for your dog to stand, lie down, and turn around. Remember that your pet may have to stay in their carrier/crate for hours at a time while away from home or in an emergency pet shelter.

Carriers prepared and located \_\_\_\_\_

**Have a Pet First Aid Kit available.** You can buy one "ready made," or make one up yourself, but make sure you know what is in your kit and how to properly use it. Taking a Pet CPR and First Aid Class from a qualified instructor will give you the skills and knowledge to handle medical emergencies with your pet prior to getting them Veterinary care (contents below recommended by the AVMA).

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> gauze   | <input type="checkbox"/> digital thermometer                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> nonstick bandages, towels, or strips of clean cloth               | <input type="checkbox"/> eye dropper (or large syringe without needle) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> adhesive tape for bandages for securing the gauze wrap or bandage | <input type="checkbox"/> muzzle  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> milk of magnesia  | <input type="checkbox"/> leash   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> activated charcoal  | <input type="checkbox"/> stretcher                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> hydrogen peroxide (3%)  |  |

**In addition to emergency supplies for you and your family, be sure to have an evacuation kit for your pet (your pet's "Go Kit") stocked and kept in a handy location.** Be sure to periodically check any items with expiration dates (especially food and medications) and replace as necessary. Everything you need can be stored in a plastic storage container or even a duffel bag. At a minimum you need:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a 5-7 day supply of <b>water</b>  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a 5-7 day supply of <b>food (canned and dry)</b> , and instructions re; amount and type of food for each pet, feeding schedule, and what NOT to feed in case of allergies                         |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a 5-7 day supply of any <b>medication</b> your pet needs (with instructions for each animal indicating dose and frequency for each medication, and contact info for vet and pharmacy for refills) |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> manual can opener   | <input type="checkbox"/> leash and collar or harness for each pet              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> spoon (for canned food)   | <input type="checkbox"/> paper towels  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> copies of current vet records & proof of ownership (in a water tight zip lock bag)  | <input type="checkbox"/> trash bags  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> picture of your pet (preferably you & your pet together)  | <input type="checkbox"/> grooming items  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> no-spill food and water dishes  | <input type="checkbox"/> pet cleaning wipes or dry shampoo                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> litter pan, litter scoop, and litter (enough for 5-7 days)  | <input type="checkbox"/> dish soap (Dawn)                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> your pet's favorite toys, blankets, etc.  | <input type="checkbox"/> bleach (for cleaning up spills and pet's "accidents") |
| <input type="checkbox"/> your pet first aid kit  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> emergency contact list  |  |

**USE THE BACK OF THIS SHEET FOR YOUR ADDITIONAL NOTES.**

This information was composed by Karen Sable, owner of Pet Emergency Training, LLC, Pet First Aid Instructor in the Pittsburgh area. Karen is also a trained responder with several national animal response/rescue teams. Visit her website at [www.pghpetemergencytraining.com](http://www.pghpetemergencytraining.com).

Flyer downloaded from The Creative Cat, <http://www.thecreativecat.net/>, courtesy Bernadette E. Kazmarski.

6/2012