



City of Sacramento

GENERAL SERVICES

Getting It Done!

Animal Care Services Division

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO PLAN?

Pet owners should develop an emergency plan that will help get you, your family and your pet(s) safely through a disaster. Keep in mind that when the weather conditions are unsafe, evacuation may be necessary for you, your family, and for your pets. It is possible that household pets left inside or outside the home will die of exposure, starvation, predators, and/or contaminated food and water. It is also possible that animals may bite or attack others as the stress induced by a disaster can cause distinct behavior changes.

DEVELOP YOUR WRITTEN PLAN NOW . . .

The survival of you and your pets could depend on your personal disaster plan. Write it down. In times of emergency, overlooking important tasks is easy. Know if you are in an evacuation zone, and when you will evacuate. Even if you live in a non-flood zone, have a contingency plan in case you are required to evacuate for other types of emergencies.

List all the survival items you will need for your pets. Purchase supplies for at least two weeks. Travel will likely be very difficult and unsafe. Getting any additional supplies after a disaster arrives may be impossible for several days.

When you are planning for your evacuation, the location you are planning to go to should be as close to home as is safely possible. The highways will be crowded, making long distance travel difficult. Some motels and hotels will allow pets during declared evacuations if they are properly confined in a carrier or cage. Check with your preferred motel or hotel before evacuating to be sure your pet will be welcome. A limited number of private boarding facilities are available for your pets if you cannot evacuate with them. Remember to choose a boarding facility located close to your evacuation route as travel will be at best, difficult.

BEFORE A DISASTER EMERGENCY . . .

Advance planning is essential. It could save your pet's life and make your life easier during an emergency. Consider the following essential items you will need:

- Get a pet carrier (portable kennel) or a crate for each household pet. These are available at most pet supply shops and some veterinarians clinics. It should be large enough to allow your pet to stand up and turn around inside. To reduce stress on your pet, take the time to acclimate your pet to the carrier.
- Have a leash and a muzzle on hand to help control your dog.
- Have newspapers, plastic bags, cleansers, kitty litter, and disinfectants available to handle pet wastes.
- Have sufficient amounts of pet food, water, and special medications on hand. Don't forget a non-electric can opener for canned foods.
- Be sure your pet's rabies and other vaccinations are current. Boarding kennels will require proof of these vaccinations before accepting your pet.
- Your pet's collar should be properly fitted with a City of Sacramento license tag. Consider having your pet micro-chipped also to help identify your pet should it become lost.
- Gather your pet's identification records and medical information into a waterproof package. Include a recent photograph of you and the pet with a detailed written description, current owners' copy of rabies registration certificate, and micro-chip or tattoo identification records.
- Large portions of the county could be evacuated, plan where you and your pets will go. Know your options, leaving them alone will not be safe.
- Consider going to a dependable friend or relative's home.
- Find motels or hotels away from flood areas. Call them to see if they will accept pets.
- Find veterinary clinics or boarding kennels in safe areas.

WHEN A DISASTER EMERGENCY IS DECLARED . . .

- Put your personal disaster plan into action.
- Get your pet into their pet carrier or crate as soon as possible. To reduce stress and to keep them from becoming lost, transport them in their carrier.
- Evacuate your family and pets as early and safely as possible.

DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PETS HOME ALONE . . .

- It could be days or possibly weeks before you could return home possibly causing starvation deaths.
- Flooding could cause needless drowning deaths of pets left alone.
- Insects or wild animals foraging for food can invade your home through structural damage caused by the storm creating a danger to your pet.
- Due to structural damage to your home your pet could escape and become lost.

AFTER THE DISASTER . . .

Inspect your home and yard for dangers left over from the disaster before allowing your family or pets in. Caution should be taken in allowing your pet outdoors. The usual scents and landmarks familiar to your pet may have changed, causing confusion. Debris and downed power lines as well as contaminated food or water could be dangerous to your pet.

Your plan should be reviewed, exercised, and updated regularly with your family.

Disaster preparedness will bring you peace of mind when you know you have done everything you can to protect your family and your pets.

FOR MORE INFORMATION . . .

Visit the following website: www.HSUS.org

For more information on disaster preparedness visit the www.fema.gov or www.cdfa.ca.gov

IF YOU HAVE LOST A PET, VISIT THE FOLLOWING . . .

City of Sacramento Animal Care Services
2127 Front Street
Sacramento, CA 95818
(916) 808-PETS (7387) www.sacpetsearch.com