

Mountain View Veterinary - Emergency Preparedness Checklist For Pets

Get a Rescue Alert Sticker. It will let responders know that pets are inside your home. Make sure it is visible and that it includes 1) the types & number of pets in your household; 2) the name & phone # of your veterinarian or trusted pet boarding/daycare centre; and 3) contact phone # of Designated Caregiver. If you evacuate with your pets, and if time allows, write "EVACUATED" across the sticker.

Identify your pet. If you become separated from your pet during an emergency, their identification may be the only way to find them. Make sure each animal wears a collar and identification tag at all times. Microchips are even better!

Choose "Designated Caregivers". A Designated Caregiver should be someone who is generally home during the day and has easy access to your home. A set of keys should be given to this trusted individual. This may work well with neighbors who have pets of their own—you may even swap responsibilities. When selecting a Permanent Caregiver, you'll need to consider other criteria. This is a person to whom you are entrusting the care of your pet in the event that something should happen to you. When selecting this "foster parent," consider people who have met your pet and have successfully cared for animals in the past.

Plan for evacuations. The best way to protect your pet in an emergency is to bring them with you. Most evacuation shelters will only accept service animals so make a list of where your pet can be taken in case you need to evacuate. This list can include:

- Hotels that accept animals even during emergencies;
- Boarding centres and animal shelters;
- Animal Hospitals; and,
- Family members and friends.

If ordered to evacuate and you are ordered to leave your pets in the house, do not tether or cage them. Leave a sign in the window and a note on the door indicating what animals are inside. Provide water and food in timed dispensers. Leave toilet seats up.

Emergency Supplies Kit

Store the emergency kit and leashes as close to an exit as possible and make sure that everyone in the family knows where it is. Items to include:

- ☐ Pet first-aid kit and guide book (ask your vet what to include or purchase one from a reputable pet supply store)
- ☐ Bottled water, at least 7 days' worth for each person and pet (4L/day per average dog, 1L/day per average cat, store in a cool, dry place and replace every two months)
- ☐ 7 days' worth of canned or dry food (be sure to rotate every two months)
- ☐ A sturdy crate or carrier
- ☐ Disposable litter trays (aluminum roasting pans are perfect)
- ☐ Newspaper, paper towels, plastic bags and litter
- ☐ Liquid dish soap and disinfectant (bleach is good)
- ☐ Disposable garbage bags for clean-up
- ☐ Pet feeding dishes & can opener
- ☐ Extra collar or harness as well as an extra leash
- ☐ Pet file including recent photos of your pets, Veterinarian and emergency numbers, contact information of Designated Caregivers, copies of any licenses, and vaccination records (Rotate medications out of your emergency kit regularly)
- ☐ Flashlight
- ☐ Bath towels
- ☐ Blanket or pillowcase (for scooping up a fearful pet)
- ☐ Especially for cats: Toys, scoopable litter
- ☐ Especially for dogs: Extra leash, toys and chew toys, a week's worth of cage liner.

Sources: Gov't of Canada "Get Prepared"; American SPCA & The American Red Cross



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