

# PETS ARE FAMILY TOO!

*Consider your pets when planning for emergencies. Know where to take your pets in an emergency and remember their needs when creating your family preparedness kit.*



## **Before a Disaster**

- ✓ Find a safe place for your pets to stay. Emergency pet shelters, animal control shelters, veterinary clinics and friends and relatives outside the disaster area are all possible choices. Some hotels and motels may allow you to bring pets; others may suspend their “no pet” policy during an emergency.
- ✓ Make sure your pets wear current ID tags all the time and that carriers for each pet are labeled with contact information. Consider having your pets micro-chipped.
- ✓ Make sure your pets are current on all their vaccinations. Pet shelters may require proof of vaccines.
- ✓ Include pet supplies as part of your 72-hour kit.

## **Disaster Supplies for Your Pet**

- ✓ Portable carrier for smaller animals
- ✓ Food and water bowls
- ✓ Enough food and water for 72 hours
- ✓ Medications and first aid supplies
- ✓ Health and vaccination records
- ✓ Litter and litter box for cats
- ✓ Instructions on your pet’s feeding schedule, diet, medications, and any other special needs.
- ✓ Leashes



***Make sure all dogs and cats are wearing collars that are securely fastened and have ID tags containing up-to-date information.***

## **During a Disaster**

- ✓ Keep pets in the house as emergency situations develop, animals have instincts about severe weather changes and will often isolate themselves if they are afraid. Bringing them inside can keep them from running away.
- ✓ If you must evacuate, take your pets with you.
- ✓ If evacuation is not necessary, keep your pets with you in a safe area.
- ✓ If you are not home during a disaster, arrange well in advance for a trusted friend or neighbor to take care of your pets. Make sure they know where to find the pet supplies and have a key to the house.

## **After a Disaster**

- ✓ Don’t allow pets to roam loose. Pets can get lost if familiar landmarks and smells are gone. For a few days, keep dogs on leashes and cats in carriers inside the house.
- ✓ Be patient with your pets. Re-establish routines as soon as possible.
- ✓ Be prepared for behavioral problems as pets adjust to changes.

## **Other Types of Pets**

### **Birds**

- ✓ If you must evacuate, transport in a secure cage or carrier.



- ✓ Make sure your bird has a leg band or that you have a current photo for ID.
- ✓ If the weather is cold, wrap a blanket over the carrier.

- ✓ If the weather is warm, bring a spray bottle to mist the bird's feathers periodically.

### **Reptiles**

- ✓ Snakes can be transported in a pillowcase, but they must be transferred to more secure housing when they reach the evacuation site.
- ✓ When transporting lizards or turtles, follow the same directions as for birds.



### **Small Mammals**

- ✓ Transport rabbits, gerbils, hamsters, rats, etc. in secure cages.
- ✓ Be sure to bring bedding, food, bowls and water bottles.



### **Large Animals**

- ✓ Ensure all animals have some form of identification
- ✓ Consider installing a hand pump and obtain enough large containers to water your animals for at least 3 days in case water supplies are contaminated.
- ✓ Before a disaster occurs, contact fairgrounds and stockyards about their policies and ability to take in livestock or horses during a disaster situation.
- ✓ If the situation calls for evacuation, make sure you have trailers and vehicles available and ready. Ensure your destination has adequate food and water.
- ✓ Keep all vaccination and health records together in an easy to find location and take them with you when you evacuate.



### **Links**

American Veterinary Medical Association  
[http://www.avma.org/disaster/saving\\_family.asp](http://www.avma.org/disaster/saving_family.asp)

Humane Society of Cowlitz County  
<http://www.cowlitzhumane.com/>  
(360) 577-0151