

Pet Emergency Preparedness

Pets are like family. Preparing in advance will keep your pet safe, healthy, and everyone in the family together!

Prepare

In emergencies and disasters, there is a chance that your pet might panic, run away, hide, or get lost. Preparing in advance will help your pet survive and keep you together.

Identification

Make sure you can identify your family and pets in case of a disaster:

- Keep a collar and tag on all cats and dogs.
- Microchip all your pets and keep the database up-to-date.
- Keep a recent picture of your pet with your important documents and in your cell phone in case you get separated.
- Keep the address and phone number of a friend outside of the disaster area.
- Keep your pet's medical records with your important documents. Some shelters will require vaccination records, like rabies, to shelter and house your pet. Include any important information about feeding schedule or health needs.

Supplies

Whether you need to evacuate your home or shelter in place, it is good to put together a pet preparedness kit for each animal in your home, with items like:

- Food, water and medical supplies (2 week supply).
- Sanitation supplies: cat litter box, litter, newspaper, garbage bags, paper towels, and wet wipes.
- Carrier, crate, harness, or strong leash in case you need to evacuate. Make sure any dwellings are large enough for your pet to stand comfortably, turn around, and lie down.
- Pet first aid kit.
- Grooming supplies.
- Comfort kit (familiar toys, towels, blanket, pet owner's clothing, treats) to reduce stress of responding to a disaster.



Key Points:

Emergencies can vary; there are several actions you can take to be ready.

Prepare

- Put ID tags on your pets' collars or microchip your pets and keep the database up-to-date
- Keep vaccine records and a recent picture of your pets
- Keep an emergency kit with supplies for each pet
- Have important phone numbers on hand

Plan

- Make plans to evacuate and to shelter in place with your pets
- Practice your evacuation plan

Recover

- Your pet may need comfort after a disaster or emergency
- Be patient, and get your pets back to normal routine

Plan

Have a plan and know what your family is going to do ahead of time, in case you need to evacuate or shelter in place with your pets.

Evacuation

- Have an evacuation plan and practice it, including putting pets in proper carriers.
- Be sure to take your pets with you if you evacuate, if it's safe.
- Don't leave pets at home if evacuation is ordered. You may not be able or allowed to go back for them.
- Find a location where you can house your pets in case of an evacuation.
- Check with your local pet boarding, American Red Cross, pet-friendly hotel, veterinarian, animal shelter, or make arrangements in advance with family and friends who may be able to provide shelter.
- Remember to keep in mind seniors and others with disabilities or access and functional needs who may need more help to evacuate and transport their pets.
- If you evacuate, leave a sign in the window to let rescuers know that you and your pets have left.

Shelter in Place

- If you stay home during an emergency or disaster, identify a safe area of your home where you can all stay together.
- Keep your pets inside and close to you and be ready to evacuate if things change.
- Keep dogs on leashes and cats in carriers, and make sure they are wearing identification.

Recover

After a disaster or emergency it may be hard for your pets to adjust. If the area or your home has changed, they may get disoriented and lost.

- Your pets may have behavior problems caused by stress. Be patient and supportive with your pets and get them back to their normal routine as soon as possible.
- If you still have problems with your pets, talk to your veterinarian.
- Regular pet wellness exams, vaccinations, and parasite control help protect your pets from getting sick.



For more information:
Los Angeles County
Department of Public Health

Emergency Preparedness and Response Program
(213) 637-3600
publichealth.lacounty.gov/eprp
www.bereadyla.org

Veterinary Public Health Program
(213) 989-7060
publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/DisasterPages/Disasters.htm