

Disaster Preparedness Tips



Prepare a Pet Emergency Kit

Pack in waterproof bags in a backpack:

- ▶ Food and water for 3 to 5 days
- ▶ Food and water bowls
- ▶ Pet's prescription drugs (rotate frequently)
- ▶ Pet's medical record
- ▶ Pet's vaccination records, including rabies
- ▶ Authorization for medical treatment in your absence
- ▶ Emergency phone numbers, including local humane shelters
- ▶ Your veterinarian's phone number
- ▶ Extra leash and collar
- ▶ Current photos of your pets to prove ownership
- ▶ Towel or small blanket for sleeping
- ▶ Small plastic bags for waste disposal (dog)
- ▶ Small litter box with litter (cat)
- ▶ Favorite toy or treat
- ▶ First aid items



Oregon
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Earthquakes, floods, wildfires, hazardous material spills—man-made or natural disasters can strike anytime, anywhere. Put a preparedness plan in place now to keep you and your pets safe. Remember, your pets depend on **you** for their safety.

If You Evacuate, Take Your Pets

Pets are **not** better off at home. If it isn't safe for you, it's not safe for them either. Animals left at home during a disaster or emergency can easily become injured, lost or killed. **Never** leave your dog tied or chained outside; it could become a victim of exposure, starvation, predators, or rising water.

If you think you might need to evacuate, bring your pets into the house and confine them so you can leave with them quickly. Make sure your disaster supplies are packed and ready to go, including your pet emergency kit.

You will need sturdy leashes, harnesses and/or carriers to transport your pets safely. A carrier should be large enough for an animal to stand comfortably, turn around, and lie down as your pet may have to stay in it for hours at a time.

In Case You're Not Home

An evacuation order may come, or a disaster may strike, when you're at work or out of the house. Make arrangements well in advance for a trusted neighbor to take your pets and meet you at a specified location.

Make Sure Your Pet Has ID

A collar with an ID tag is a must. On the tag, in addition to your phone number, you may want to include the phone number of a friend or relative outside of your area. Collars can come off, however, so you also may want to consider microchipping and/or tattooing.

Find a Safe Place in Advance

Some evacuation shelters do not allow pets other than service animals, so plan ahead and find an animal-friendly place such as a friend, boarding kennel, veterinary facility, hotel or motel. Call for a reservation at the facility as soon as you think you might have to evacuate. Keep proof of current rabies and distemper vaccines and copies of your pet's other medical records in your emergency kit.

If You Don't Evacuate

If your family and pets must wait out a storm or other disaster at home, identify a safe area of your home where you can all stay together and where you can maintain control of your pets.

When You Return Home

Don't allow your pets to roam loose. Familiar sights and smells might be gone, which could cause your pets to become disoriented and lost.

Comfort your pet. In the event of an emergency, your pet will probably be just as frightened as you. Give it attention and affection, but don't force it. Let your pet come to you. If behavior issues appear or worsen, consult with your veterinarian. Just as people can be traumatized by emergency situations, so can pets.

More Preparedness Tips

For more disaster preparedness tips, visit the Pet Owners' section of our Web site at oregonvma.org.

The Oregon Veterinary Medical Association is a nonprofit organization of veterinarians who are dedicated to helping people give their animals a high quality of life.