

# Pet Emergency Preparedness

## 1. How can I include my pet in my emergency preparedness planning?

- Microchip your pets and keep ID tags on collar updated (especially if you move).
- Make a kit for your pet with supplies and important documents.
- Share pet information and evacuation plans with family and neighbors.
- Keep a list of places that can shelter animals in an emergency.
- Plan transportation in advance.
- Be aware of your pet's favorite hiding places in case they get scared and hide during an emergency.
- Practice your evacuation drill every 6 months.

## 2. What is the difference between planning an evacuation with your pet and sheltering in place?

During an emergency, police or other authorities may ask you to evacuate your home if it is too dangerous to stay. Having a plan ready will help you leave as soon as possible. In some emergencies, the safest plan is to stay where you are with your pet. These emergencies are: chemical spill, extreme weather or a threat of violence. When you shelter in place with your pets, keep them inside and find the safest place in your home, away from windows. Be sure to keep your pets inside or in a crate until you know it is safe.

## 3. What items should be in a pet emergency kit?

Make an emergency kit for your pet and make sure that everyone in your household knows where it is kept.

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|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. Food (1 week supply)         | 7. Medicine                            |
| 2. Water (1 week supply)        | 8. Medical records                     |
| 3. Harness or strong leash      | 9. Documents                           |
| 4. Pet cleaning supplies        | 10. Pet first aid kit                  |
| 5. Carrier (crate) for each pet | 11. Recent picture of you and your pet |
| 6. Grooming and comfort items   |  |

## 4. What are some tips for recovering after an emergency with my pets?

- Be patient with your pets. They may have behavior problems caused by stress.
- Comfort your pets by giving them favorite blankets, toys and treats.
- If there is still damage and threats in your area, keep pets in a crate.
- Take your pet for regular wellness exams, vaccinations and flea control.
- Make sure your pet have fresh, cool water every day.
- Take your pets for regular walks so they feel better and live longer.



### Key Points

- Include your pet in your emergency preparedness planning.
- Keep collars and ID tags up to date.
- Make an emergency kit for your pet.
- Pets may be scared and hide during an emergency.
- After an emergency, pet behavior may change. Be patient and comfort them.
- Practice your evacuation drill every 6 months.

### More Information

Los Angeles County  
Department of Public Health  
[www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/healthlibrary/topics/eprp/](http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/healthlibrary/topics/eprp/)

Veterinary Public Health  
[www.ph.lacounty.gov/vet](http://www.ph.lacounty.gov/vet)

Ready: Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed.  
[www.beready.gov](http://www.beready.gov)

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