

When You Go – They Go

Don't Leave Home Without Them!

When a disaster or emergency occurs and you have to leave
ALWAYS take your pets with you.

People think they will be able to return shortly to care for their animals, but too often the situation worsens and people cannot make it back to rescue their pets.

Do not put your pets' lives, your life, or other rescuers' lives at risk.

When You Go – They Go.

If you go to a public emergency shelter your pets may not be allowed inside.

Think ahead. Have a plan in place.



Where can you and your pet go for safety? A friend or family members' home? A pet friendly hotel?

Make a back-up emergency plan in case you can't care for your animals yourself. Develop a buddy system with neighbors, friends and relatives to make sure that someone is available to care for or evacuate your pets if you are unable to do so.

Get involved with your Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). Become a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) member. Help with the pet friendly sheltering plan in your community. Check with your Animal Control Officer or local town hall for ways that you can help.

To learn more on how you can be prepared and how to volunteer, visit the State of Massachusetts Animal Response Team (SMART) website at www.smart-mass.org





Preparing Your Pets for Emergencies Makes Sense. Get Ready Now.

1. Get a Kit of pet emergency supplies.

Just as you do with your family's emergency supply kit, think first about the basics for survival, particularly food and water.

- ✓ **Food:** Keep at least three days of food in an airtight, waterproof container.
- ✓ **Water:** Store at least three days of water specifically for your pets, in addition to water you need for yourself and your family.
- ✓ **Medicines and medical records:** Keep an extra supply of medicines your pet takes on a regular basis in a waterproof container.
- ✓ **First aid kit:** Talk to your veterinarian about what is most appropriate for your pet's emergency medical needs. Most kits should include cotton bandage rolls, bandage tape and scissors; antibiotic ointment; flea and tick prevention; latex gloves, isopropyl alcohol and saline solution. Include a pet first aid reference book.
- ✓ **Collar with ID tag, harness or leash:** Your pet should wear a collar with its rabies tag and identification at all times. Include a backup leash, collar and ID tag in your pet's emergency supply kit.
- ✓ **Important documents:** Place copies of your pet's registration information, adoption papers, vaccination documents and medical records in a clean plastic bag or waterproof container and also add them to your kit.
- ✓ **Crate or other pet carrier:** If you need to evacuate in an emergency situation take your pets and animals with you, provided that it is practical to do so.
- ✓ **Sanitation:** Include pet litter and litter box if appropriate, newspapers, paper towels, plastic trash bags and household chlorine bleach to provide for your pet's sanitation needs. You can use bleach as a disinfectant (dilute nine parts water to one part bleach), or in an emergency you can also use it to purify water. Use 8 drops of regular household liquid bleach per gallon of water, stir well and let it stand for 30 minutes before use. Do not use scented or color safe bleaches or those with added cleaners.
- ✓ **A picture of you and your pet together:** If you become separated from your pet during an emergency, a picture of you and your pet together will help you document ownership and allow others to assist you in identifying your pet. Include detailed information about species, breed, age, sex, color and distinguishing characteristics.
- ✓ **Familiar items:** Put favorite toys, treats or bedding in your kit. Familiar items can help reduce stress for your pet.

Consider two kits. In one, put everything your pets will need to stay where you are and make it on your own. The other should be a lightweight, smaller version you can take with you if you and your pets have to get away.

2. Make a Plan for what you will do in an emergency.

Plan in advance what you will do in an emergency. Be prepared to assess the situation. Use common sense and whatever you have on hand to take care of yourself and ensure your pet's safety during an emergency.