

Cat Emergency Preparedness

This playbook outlines the necessary steps for cat owners to include their feline companions in their family's emergency planning. It covers what items to pack in an emergency kit for your cat and provides guidance on handling evacuations.

Step 1: **Assess Needs**

Identify your cat's specific needs including food, water, medication, and any special care requirements to sustain them for at least 72 hours.

Step 2: **Prepare Kit**

Pack an emergency kit containing:\n- A 72 hour supply of cat food and water.\n- Bowls and a manual can opener for food cans.\n- Cat litter and portable litter box.\n- Medications and medical records in a waterproof container.\n- Collar with ID tag, harness, and leash.\n- Sturdy carrier for safe transportation.\n- Current photos of your cat in case they get lost.\n- Bedding and a favorite toy to reduce stress.

Step 3: **Plan Evacuation**

Research ahead of time to find pet-friendly accommodations, as not all emergency shelters accept pets. Have a list of pet-friendly hotels, friends, or relatives' homes that you could go to in an emergency.

Step 4: **Practice Drills**

Regularly practice putting your cat in the carrier and going for a drive. This helps reduce their stress during a real evacuation and familiarizes them with the process.

Step 5: **Stay Informed**

Keep abreast of local news and weather forecasts to anticipate potential emergencies. Have a battery-powered or hand-crank radio in your kit in case of power outages.

General Notes

Microchip

Ensure your cat is microchipped and the registration is up-to-date, to increase the chances of being reunited if they get lost.

Emergency Contacts

Maintain a list of emergency contact numbers including local animal shelters, animal control, and veterinary offices.

First-Aid Training

Consider getting first-aid training specifically for pets so you can address minor injuries or stabilize your cat until you reach professional help.