# Pet Safety in Disasters

A playbook to guide pet owners on the essentials of protecting their pets during natural disasters. It outlines steps to prepare, act, and recover to ensure pets' safety and well-being during such critical times.

### Step 1: Preparation

Take proactive steps to prepare for a potential natural disaster by creating an emergency kit for your pet, which should include food, water, medications, veterinary records, and any special care instructions. Ensure your pet has up-to-date identification, such as a microchip or collar tag, and prepare a secure pet carrier that's easily accessible.

### Step 2: Secure Shelter

Identify a safe place where you and your pets can stay during a disaster. This could be a pet-friendly shelter, a hotel, or a family member's home. Verify that the location will accept pets well in advance of a disaster.

### Step 3: Evacuation Plan

Create an evacuation plan that includes your pets. Practice the evacuation procedure so that your pets become familiar with it. Keep a list of emergency contacts, including veterinarians and local animal shelters, within easy reach.

### Step 4: Immediate Action

When a disaster is imminent, act quickly. Gather your pets and emergency supply kit, and move to a pre-identified safe location. Never leave pets behind, as they may not survive on their own or may impede rescue efforts.

### Step 5: Aftermath Care

After the natural disaster has occurred, ensure your pet is safe and free from injury. Keep them on a leash or in a carrier when venturing outside, as landmarks and scents may have changed, which can confuse and disorient pets.

## General Notes

### Stay Informed

Keep yourself informed about the types of natural disasters common in your area and the local emergency plans, including those that pertain to pet evacuation and sheltering.

### Pet First Aid

Consider learning pet first aid to be better prepared for any injuries your pet might sustain during a natural disaster.