

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.