

Protect your pet in a disaster

Downloadable Disaster Pack for Dogs

Just as you do with your family's Disaster Survival Kit, think first about the basics, for your dog – **food, water and warmth.**

Think about two Disaster Survival Kits –

1. One kit for if you need to stay at home for up to three days.
2. The other, a more portable lightweight version (Getaway Kit) for when you, your family and your dog need to leave quickly.

Remember: If where you are is not safe for you, it is not safe for your animal.

Place these kits somewhere easy to get to in a hurry. And make sure everyone in the house knows where they are kept, including a neighbour.

Always re-check these kits for expiry dates, to ensure supplies stay fresh – particularly the food, water and medicine items. Water should always be replaced every six months to ensure freshness.



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Prepare for your Dog – Checklist

Emergency Survival Items:

- **Food:** Store at least three days of non-perishable pet food (canned or dried) in an airtight, waterproof container (remember the can opener!). This ideally, should be the same food you normally feed your dog so as to avoid sudden changes in diet and possible stomach upsets.
- **Water:** Store at least three days of water for your dog, in addition to the water you need for your family (remember a dog can drink more water than usual when under stress). Plus you will need extra water to clean up after your dog.
- **Medicines:** Store any extra supply of medicines your dog needs in a waterproof container, as well as any special dietary needs or supplements.
- **Veterinary/Medical Records:** Store copies of any medical and vaccination records in a watertight container or ziplock bag including your vet's name and telephone number (in case you have to board your dog or place them in foster care).
- **First Aid Kit:** Store extra cotton bandage rolls, bandage tapes, scissors, tweezers and latex gloves in addition to those required for your family. Talk to your vet about any other requirements ie tick/flea prevention, antibiotic ointment and saline solution (ie eye wash solution separate from your family use).
▶ [Click here for a full First Aid Kit for Pets](#)
- **Blanket/Bedding:** Familiar items, like a favourite blanket or toys can help reduce stress for your dog.
- **Sanitation:** Include 'poo' bags. Other useful items are newspapers, paper towels, plastic bags, gloves and household bleach (to dilute).

Identification:

- **Collar with ID disc:** Add an ID disc to your dog's collar that clearly states their name, your name, phone number and if there is room - your address. Include a back up collar and tag in your dog's Disaster Survival Kit.

- **Registered & Micro-chipped:** Ensure your dog is registered and wears the current registration tag. Make sure your dog is microchipped and a copy of the microchip registration form is in your Disaster Survival Kit. If your dog gets lost, this is their easiest ticket home!

Ensure your microchip database records include the contact details of your 'next of kin' (ie. a close relative or friend outside of your household), in case you have to be evacuated and the mobile phone network is down. Remember to regularly check your details on the microchip databases to make sure they are all up to date.

In the Canterbury Earthquake there was an 80% success rate of microchipped animals being reunited with their owners versus only 20% for non-chipped animals.

- **Photograph:** Store a current photograph of your dog in a waterproof container, including notes on: distinguishing features, name, sex, age, colour and breed. Also include a photograph of you and your dog together as this helps prove ownership.
- **Back up:** As a back up, please save microchip details, medical and veterinary details, key contact details and all photographs electronically - to places such as 'Dropbox', your mobile phone or save a folder in your Webmail (ie gmail). This means you can still access these vital details if you are cut off from returning to your dog.

Equipment:

- **Sturdy Lead, Harness and Muzzle:** Plus any other sturdy kind of equipment that you think will help control your dog, particularly in a stressful situation and that you can add further identification to. It should be strong and reliable as your dog may panic and try and escape. Even if your dog is friendly, emergency personnel may refuse to handle them unless they are muzzled.
- **Cages or Carrier:** This is to transport your dog safely and ensure they cannot escape. A cage/carrier should be large enough for your dog to stand comfortably, turn around, lie down and have adequate ventilation. Your dog may have to stay in the cage/carrier for hours at a time, so include bedding, blankets and any favourite toy, to reduce stress levels.



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Safe Shelter Places

If you need to evacuate, take your pet dog. Pets are part of the family and it is not okay to leave them behind. If it is not safe for you to stay, then it is not safe for them or those who may try and rescue them. Pets are usually not permitted in public shelters, so you need to plan and agree on a 'Safe House' or an animal shelter that you and your dog (or just your dog) can go to:

- **A Safe House:** Plan and agree with a family member or friend (who doesn't live with you and who has cared for your dog in the past) if they will care for your dog for any length of time, in case of a disaster.
- **Place their full name, address and telephone number in your Disaster Survival Kit in a waterproof container.** All adults and children in your household should know these primary and alternative contacts (names/addresses/contact numbers) or always carry this information with them.
- **Show them and a neighbour where your Disaster Survival Kits are** (the one kit for you and your dog if staying put and the other kit for you and your dog's getaway) just in case you are not at home when disaster strikes and you are cut off from returning to your dog. This means your neighbour can at least feed and attend to your dog in the interim.
- **Also show them how to access a spare key to your house,** or even better provide them with a key (as your hiding place may be destroyed in a disaster).
- **Have a plan to communicate with your contact after the event.** You will want to arrange a meeting place in a safe area so you can be reunited with your dog.

○ **A Safe Shelter:** Make a list of contact information and addresses of potential 'pet friendly' shelters (kennels, motels that allow pets, local vet centres). Your local council may be able to help you with this. Keep a list on you at all times and a copy in each of your emergency survival kits.

At most kennels you will need to provide veterinary records before boarding pets. Always call ahead for a reservation as soon as you think you might have to evacuate from home.

Give it a go

To ensure your family and dog can move fast and feel comfortable if you need to stay put in a disaster, you should practice getting your family into your safe place in the house (where your Disaster Survival Kits are kept). You can time yourselves and give it another go from time to time to see how fast (but not panicked) you can operate.

Then try again to your chosen 'Safe House/Shelter'. By practicing an evacuation your dog will get use to entering and travelling calmly in their cage/carrier.

Try doing both practice runs in the dark. This will ensure you can navigate quicker if a disaster strikes during the night or if there is a power cut.

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