



Protect animals during disasters
by knowing the three Ps:
Plan. Prepare. Practice.





Plan

Step 1:

Plan ahead to protect your cat or dog

Disasters can occur at any time, and without a plan you could make panicked decisions that threaten the safety of you, your pet, and your family.

Pets are part of your family and should never be abandoned in a disaster unless it is impossible to evacuate them. By making a Pet Disaster Plan and including it as a key part of your overall disaster preparedness plan, you'll be ready to evacuate fast or stay put with enough supplies if a disaster like a hurricane, wildfire, or earthquake strikes.

It is vital to prepare Pet Disaster Plans for your cat or dog before a disaster occurs or risk potentially losing each other forever. Share your Pet Disaster Plan with friends, family, or neighbors so they can help if you can't reach your cat or dog in an emergency.

It's important to remember that any disaster can be stressful for your pets and yourself, so plan, prepare, and practice your plan, then pay attention to emergency warnings in your area and be ready to act early.

Safe Shelter Places

Before a disaster happens, take time to investigate places for your cat, dog, or small pet as part of your Pet Disaster Plan. Some evacuation centers may not permit pets so you might need to plan in advance and identify a safe house or animal shelter for your pet. Planning ahead will help to avoid a delay in evacuating your home and keep all of your family safe.

- ✓ **A safe house:** Plan and agree with a family member or friend if they will care for your pet and for how long.
- ✓ **Evacuation center:** Check with your local council for "animal friendly" evacuation centers.
- ✓ **A safe shelter:** Make a list of contact information and addresses of potential "pet-friendly" shelters (kennels, motels that allow pets, local vet centers).

Place their full name, address, and telephone number in your Disaster Survival Kit in a waterproof container. Have a plan to communicate with your contact after the event.

Step 2:

Prepare a Disaster Survival Kit

Emergency survival items:

- ✓ **Food:** Store at least five days' worth of non-perishable pet food (canned or dried) per pet in an airtight, waterproof container (remember the can opener!). This is especially important if your pet requires a specific diet.
- ✓ **Water:** Store at least seven days' worth of water for each pet, in addition to the water you need for yourself (remember: your pet can drink more water than usual when under stress).
- ✓ **Medicines:** Store any medicines your pet needs in a waterproof container, as well as any special dietary needs or supplements.
- ✓ **Vet/Medical Records:** Store copies of any medical and vaccination records in a watertight container or ziplock bag as well as digitally
- ✓ **First Aid Kit:** Store extra cotton bandage rolls, bandage tapes, scissors, tweezers, and latex gloves in addition to those required for yourself.
- ✓ **Blanket/Bedding:** Familiar items like a favorite blanket or toys can help reduce stress for your pet.
- ✓ **Sanitation:** Include 'poo' bags. Other useful items are newspapers, paper towels, plastic bags, gloves and household bleach (to dilute) to clean.



Prepare



Equipment:

- ✓ **Sturdy Lead, Harness, or Muzzle:** Plus any other sturdy kind of equipment that you think will help control your pet, particularly in a stressful situation.
- ✓ **A cage/carrier** should be large enough for your pet to stand comfortably, turn around, lie down, and have adequate ventilation. As well as bedding, blankets, and any favorite toy to reduce stress levels.

Identification:

- ✓ **Collar with ID:** Add an ID to your pet's collar that clearly states their name, your name, phone number and, if there is room, your address.
- ✓ **Register and Microchip:** Ensure your pet is registered and wears the current registration tag. Make sure your dog is microchipped and a copy of the microchip certificate is in your Disaster Survival Kit.

Prepare for your bird

✓ Checklist

While World Animal Protection opposes wildlife as pets, including many species sold in the US such as parrots and parakeets, it is important to include them in any and all disaster plans, especially considering many can be rescues.

In addition to our general Disaster Survival Kit, please include the following specialties for birds:

First Aid Kit: Make sure you talk to your vet about any other requirements for your bird.

Blanket/Bedding: A cover to put over the cage or toys inside the cage, can help reduce stress for your bird.

Sanitation: Include any pet litter or other useful items like newspaper, paper towels and household bleach (to dilute) to clean out the cage.

Gloves: Plus any other sturdy kind of equipment that you think will help handle and control your bird, particularly in a stressful situation. Think strong and reliable as your bird may panic and try and escape.

Cages or Carrier: This is to transport your bird safely and ensure they cannot escape. Remember anything cardboard/paper based (ie pet carrier box) will disintegrate.

A cage/carrier should be large enough for your bird to stand comfortably and turn around and have adequate ventilation. Your bird may have to stay in the cage/carrier for days so include any favorite toys to reduce stress levels.

Identification: Make sure your bird's cage/carrier includes a tag that clearly states their name, your name, phone number and if there is room your address. Include a back-up tag in your bird's **Disaster Survival Kit**.



Prepare for your horses

✓ Checklist

In addition to our general pet disaster preparedness checklist, include the following for horses:

Sanitation: Include useful items such as a spade, newspapers, paper towels, plastic bags, gloves and household bleach (to dilute).

Equipment: Halter and lead: As well as any other equipment that would help you or others handle your horse.

Float: This is to transport your horse safely and ensure they cannot escape. Your horse may have to stay in the float for hours at a time.

A Safe Paddock: Plan and agree with a family member, friend or paddock owner (who doesn't live with you) if they will care for your horse for any length of time, in case of a disaster.





Practice

Step 3: Practice your plan

Like us, pets can react differently when under stress. To ensure you and your pet can move fast and feel secure if you need to shelter in place in a disaster, you should practice getting your pet into your safe place in the house (where your Disaster Survival Kits are kept).

- Place these kits somewhere easy to get to in a hurry, and make sure everyone in the house knows where they are kept. Regularly re-check these kits for expiry dates to ensure supplies stay fresh – particularly the food, water and medicine items.
- Water should be replaced every six months to ensure freshness.
- Remember to practice your plan regularly so that your pet becomes used to entering and traveling calmly in their cage/carrier.
- Try doing 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.





Pet First Aid: Know what to do for injured pets



Remember the ABC RULE

- ✓ **Airways:** check for any blockages.
- ✓ **Breathing:** check for labored breathing.
- ✓ **Circulation:** check for a heartbeat.

Burns

Run cool tap water over the burn continually for 10 minutes. Contact your vet and seek further advice.

Wounds

Clean the wound with saline. If bleeding, apply pressure and a bandage. Seek vet assistance as it may require antibiotics.

Poisoning

Seek vet advice as soon as possible. Monitor reaction for symptoms such as heavy or shallow breathing and blood in urine.

Seizures

Make sure your pets can not harm themselves on items around them. Do not try to stop the seizure. Use only your voice to attempt to calm them and contact your vet if the seizure continues for more than 5 minutes.

Bites

Seek vet advice as soon as possible. Monitor reaction for symptoms such as heavy or shallow breathing and blood in urine.

This guide has been provided as a free resource to the public in order to prepare pets for disaster response. Please consider giving a gift of any amount if you have found this guide useful.

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From time to time, World Animal Protection allows other worthy organizations to send mail to our donors. To stop receiving these mailings or to change the frequency or types of communications you receive from us, write to us at the address above.

World Animal Protection is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Our tax identification number is 04-2718182.



Leave a lasting legacy for animals

By leaving a gift to World Animal Protection in your will, you build a powerful lasting legacy for animals. Bequest gifts help ensure that the impact of our work is felt by animals long into the future. We call this type of donation a legacy gift - because there are few finer legacies than to be remembered as someone who helped shape a world in which animals live free from suffering.

For more information on leaving a legacy gift, contact us by email at info@worldanimalprotection.us or by phone at (646) 783-2200

Become an Animal Protector



Animals need us to be there for them all year long. By joining the **Wild Side**, our monthly giving program, you'll be making the greatest impact on animals every day of the year. Plus, you will receive a free welcome kit which includes an informational brochure, tote bag and more!
\$14.99 a month is all it takes to save lives.

▶ To learn more and become an Animal Protector, visit www.worldanimalprotection.us/TheWildSide or call us at 646-783-2800

Possible ad to come.

World Animal Protection

55 years of caring

When disasters hit, animals experience the same terrible effects as people: injury, starvation, thirst, displacement, illness, and stress.

For the past 55 years, we've deployed to protect animals affected by earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, wildfires, and other disasters.

We provide food, water, medical care, and other emergency assistance to animals in need through our global partnerships, saving millions of animals. When animals perish during disasters, it has a devastating impact on the people who rely on them for companionship and economic status.

Disaster risk reduction

We work year-round to help countries prepare and reduce the impact on animals and their owners, an important step in protecting animals from future catastrophe.

Through our work, we encourage governments, international bodies, and local and national partners to include animals in their plans, policies, and practice.

World Animal Protection works to:

- Lobby and publicly campaign for animal-inclusive disaster risk reduction strategies at the international and national level
- Conduct training activities with local government officials
- Train partner organizations on animal rescue and disaster management through workshops and PrepVet, an online course we developed
- Help animal owners in disaster prone areas learn how to care for their animals

Governments must take urgent steps to protect both people and animals by including animals in their disaster plans. And people must include animals in their evacuation plans.

Governments and the global disaster response community know that protecting animals helps people rebuild their lives following a disaster. Yet animals are rarely included in national disaster plans and investments, and their needs are rarely factored into relief operations.

▶ Explore our 55 years of disaster work at <https://disasterresponse.worldanimalprotection.org>



We are World Animal Protection.

We end the needless suffering of animals.

We influence decision makers to put animals on the global agenda.

We help the world see how important animals are to all of us.

We inspire people to change animals' lives for the better.

We move the world to protect animals.

We strive to end injustice

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