

Pet Preparedness

Our pets are cherished members of our families, and just like any loved one, they rely on us—especially during emergencies. Whether you're sheltering in place or evacuating, it's crucial to have a plan in place for your animals. Here's how to prepare:

Planning Ahead

- **Create an evacuation plan** that includes pet-friendly shelters or hotels.
- **Check transportation options** (planes, trains, buses) in advance—some may not allow pets.
- **Ensure car safety** with appropriate restraints or carriers to keep your pet secure while traveling.
- **Build a Pet Go-Bag**

Pack the essentials in a dedicated emergency kit for your pet, including:

- Food and bottled water
- Bowls for food and water
- A spare collar, leash, and harness
- Treats and grooming supplies
- Medications and immunization records (especially rabies)
- License and microchip information
- Proof of ownership and a recent photo of your pet
- Contact info for your veterinarian and emergency services
- Toys, blanket, or bed for comfort (if space allows)
- Basic pet first aid supplies (e.g., tweezers, hygiene items)

During an Emergency

- **Bring pets indoors** during storms or extreme weather.
- **Protect them from loud noises**, such as fireworks or thunder, which can be distressing.
- **Keep your pet calm** with familiar items and a quiet, safe space.

By taking these steps now, you'll ensure your pet is protected and cared for no matter what comes your way.