

Prepare Pets for Potential Emergencies

Authors give advice on how to prepare when planning for potential disasters.

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Even during the holiday season, disaster can strike. Being prepared could possibly save your pet's life. Allen and Linda Anderson, authors of the book **RESCUED: Saving Pets From Disaster**, offer a list of questions that pet owners should ask themselves to be prepared for a catastrophe.

1. Are you prepared to get out of your home fast by having pet carriers, leashes, medications and a pet emergency kit within easy reach? Are you prepared for human and animal family members to survive up to 72 hours before rescuers can arrive, if there is a disaster?
2. Do you have your pet microchipped? Would someone be able to identify your cat if its collar came off? Is microchip and veterinary information for your pet in a waterproof container? Have you updated microchip registration if you moved or changed phone numbers?
3. Do you have recent photos of your cat and a description of distinguishing features in your car or outside the house?
4. Do you have a list of safe places and pet-friendly hotels that will accommodate your pet? Is the list in the glove compartment of your car or with your pet emergency kit?
5. Have you made arrangements for fast pet evacuation if you are away from your home and unable to do it yourself? Do your neighbors know you have pets and where they stay when you aren't home?
6. Is your local fire department trained by a veterinarian for giving emergency medical treatment to animals and evacuating pets from your home in a fire? Do you have a recently dated American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) pet rescue alert sticker posted on the entry of your home?

If you were unable to answer all of these questions, work with your family, friends, neighbors and veterinarian so that everyone, including pets, will be better prepared in the event of an emergency.