

30 Days 30 Ways

Family Emergency Preparedness

Pets

If you are like millions of animal owners nationwide, your pet is an important member of your household. Their comfort and safety depends on the planning and preparing you do today! Whether you decide to stay put in an emergency or evacuate to a safer location, you will need to make plans in advance for your pets. Keep in mind that what's best for you is typically what's best for your animals.

If you evacuate your home, **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PETS BEHIND!** Pets most likely cannot survive on their own and if by some remote chance they do, you may not be able to find them when you return.

If you are going to a public shelter, it is important to understand that animals may not be allowed inside. Plan in advance for shelter alternatives that will work for both you and your pets; consider loved ones or friends outside of your immediate area who would be willing to host you and your pets in an emergency.

Make a back-up emergency plan in case you can't care for your animals yourself. Develop a buddy system with neighbors, friends and relatives to make sure that someone is available to care for or evacuate your pets if you are unable to do so.

Visit [Ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) for more information on preparing pets for disaster:
<http://www.ready.gov/caring-animals>



Your pet needs enough food for three days. Pack 3 Ziplock bags with one full day's worth of food and treats and then place all three in a larger container with the other items listed below.

- Food & water
- Water/Food Dishes
- Can Opener
- Medication
- ID tags
- Extra collar/leash set
- Cold Weather Gear
- Chew Toy
- Pet Waste Bags
- Muzzle if needed

