

Be Ready for Everyday Emergencies

You can't get home to your pet:

- Find a trusted neighbor, friend or family member and give him or her a key. Make sure this backup caretaker is comfortable and familiar with your pets (and vice versa).
- Make sure your back up caretaker knows your pet's feeding and medication schedule, whereabouts and habits.
- If you use a pet-sitting service, find out in advance if they will be able to help in case of an emergency.

The electricity goes out:

If you're forced to leave your home because you've lost electricity, take your pets with you to a pet-friendly hotel. If it's summer, even just an hour or two in the sweltering heat can be dangerous. If you stay at home during a summer power outage, ask your local emergency management office if there are pet-friendly cooling centers in the area.

If it's winter, don't be fooled by your pets' fur coats; it isn't safe to leave them in an unheated house.

Heat Waves:

- Watch the humidity
- Limit exercise on hot days
- Don't rely on a fan
- Provide ample shade and water
- Cool your pet inside and out
- Watch for signs of heat stroke



Resources for Your Pet

The American Red Cross

1 (800) Red Cross
1(800) 733-2767
www.redcross.org

The Humane Society of the United States

(866) 720-2676
www.humanesociety.org

ASPCA

(212) 876-7700
www.aspca.org

Ready

(800) 621-3362
www.ready.gov

Cesar's Way

www.cesarsway.com

The Cat Fanciers' Association

(330) 680-4070
www.cfainc.org

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

(800) 232-4636
www.cdc.gov

Orange County Information Line

Dial 211
www.211oc.org

Search the web: "Pet Disaster Preparedness"

References

www.cdc.gov
www.humanesociety.org
www.petdisasterplan.com
www.preparednessmama.com
www.redcross.org

County of Orange Health Care Agency



Resources

OC Links

(855) OC-Links or (855) 625-4657
TDD Number: (714) 834-2332
www.ochealthinfo.com/bhs/about/pi/oclinks/
Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Centralized Assessment Team
(Emergency Psychiatric Evaluation)
(866) 830-6011

7 days a week, 24 hours a day

24 Hour Suicide Prevention
(877) 7 CRISIS or (877) 727-4747
www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/

NAMI WarmLine

Non-crisis support
(877) 910 WARM or (877) 910-9276
www.namioc.org
Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m.
Saturday - Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m.

County of Orange
Health Care Agency
Behavioral Health Services
Disaster Response

405 W. 5th Street, Suite 550
Santa Ana, CA 92701
<http://ochealthinfo.com/bhs>

County of Orange Health Care Agency



Pet Disaster Preparedness



Behavioral Health Services Disaster Response

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Santa Ana, CA 92701

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Mission Statement

Making Orange County a safe, healthy, and fulfilling place to live, work and play, today and for generations to come, by providing outstanding, cost-effective regional public services.

If a natural disaster strikes, what will happen to your pet? Be prepared! Make a plan and prepare a disaster kit for you pet.

Leaving pets out of evacuation plans can put pets, pet owners and first responders in danger. Even if you try to create a safe place for them, pets left behind during a disaster are likely to be injured, lost or worse. It is your responsibility as a pet owner to find out what type of shelters and assistance are available in your area to accommodate pets and to include pets in your disaster plan to keep them safe during an emergency.

Have you included pets in your disaster plan? Don't wait until it's too late. Start today by making a plan and preparing a disaster kit.

By doing so, you are protecting the health of not only your pet, but yourself, your family and others in your community.



Know What to Do As the Disaster Approaches

Often times, warnings are issued hours, even days, in advance. At the first hint of disaster, act to protect your pet.

- **Call ahead** to confirm emergency shelter arrangements for you and your pets
- Ensure that all pets are **wearing collars** with securely fastened, up-to-date identification
- Check that your pet **disaster supplies are ready** to take at a moment's notice
- **Bring pets inside** so you won't have to search for them if you need to leave quickly

Create an Emergency Kit

Keep items in an accessible place and store them in sturdy containers so that they can be carried easily. Your kit should include:

- **Sturdy leashes, harnesses** and/or **carriers** to transport pets safely and ensure that they can't escape
- **Food, drinking water, bowls, cat litter/pan** and a **manual can opener**
- **Medications** and copies of **medical records** stored in a waterproof container
- A first-aid kit
- Current **photos of you with your pet(s)** in case they get lost. Since many pets look alike, this will help to eliminate mistaken identity and confusion.
- Information on **feeding schedules, medical conditions, behavior problems** and the **name and number of your veterinarian** in case you have to foster or board your pets

What Else Can I Do to Prepare?

- Plan to **take your pets with you in an evacuation**. If it is not safe for you to stay, it is not safe for them either.
- **Know which hotels and motels** along your evacuation route **will accept you and your pets** in an emergency. Call ahead for reservations if you know you may need to evacuate. Ask if no-pet policies could be waived in an emergency.
- Most **Red Cross shelters cannot accept pets** because of health and safety concerns and other considerations. Service animals that assist people with disabilities are allowed in Red Cross shelters.
- **Know** which friends, relatives, boarding facilities, animal shelters or veterinarians **can care for your animals** in an emergency. Prepare a list with phone numbers.
- Although your animals may be more comfortable together, **be prepared to house them separately**.
- **Include your pets in evacuation drills** so that they become used to entering and traveling in their carriers calmly.
- Make sure that your **pet's vaccinations are current** and that all dogs and cats are **wearing collars with securely fastened, up-to-date identification**. Many pet shelters require **proof of current vaccinations** to reduce the spread of disease.
- **Consider having your pet "microchipped"** by your veterinarian.

After a Disaster

- The **behavior of pets may change** dramatically after a disaster, they may become aggressive or defensive, so be aware of their well-being and protect them from hazards to ensure the safety of other people and animals.
- **Watch** your animals **closely** and keep them under your direct control as fences and gates may have been damaged.
- **Pets may become disoriented**, particularly if the disaster has affected scent markers that normally allow them to find their home.
- **Be aware of hazards** at nose, paw and/or hoof level, particularly debris, spilled chemicals, fertilizers and other substances that might not seem to be dangerous to humans.
- **Consult your veterinarian** if any behavior problems persist.

In Case of Evacuation

A critical components of your pet emergency preparedness plan is to **determine how to safely and securely move your pet out of harm's way to an emergency shelter**.

Birds—use their own cage if possible, if not, use a smaller secondary cage.

Cats—use a pet carrier.

Dogs—use a pet carrier or a leash.

Fish—use their own bowl or tank if it is small enough to move. Remember to cover the top.

Pocket Pets (Hamsters, Gerbils, or Mice)—use their own cage, or a smaller pet carrier.

Rabbits—use a transport cage.

Reptiles—use their own cage or smaller transport cage.

Turtles—use their own container or use a smaller secondary container.