

## GET READY ... GET PETS ... GO!



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You might think, “*It won’t happen to me,*” but it can. When disaster strikes, advance planning is the key to keeping you, your family and your companion animals safe. Depending on where you live, you might experience wildfires or floods, earthquakes or snow storms, hurricanes or tornadoes, mud slides or chemical spills, to name a few.

In any disaster, emergency planning can save lives. Be sure to include your companion animals in your plans — they depend on you for protection.

**To stay safe, you’ll need a Family Disaster Plan, an Emergency Contact List, and a Pet Survival Kit. Use the Disaster Preparation Tips Checklist to be prepared.**

## FAMILY DISASTER PLAN

Sit down with all the members of your household — today — and make a written Family Disaster Plan. Include step-by-step arrangements for leaving your property if the need occurs, alternate evacuation routes and meeting places, as well as your Emergency Contact List. Decide what to include in a Pet Survival Kit — and where you’ll keep it. Your local Red Cross or Emergency Management department can help you create a realistic plan. Most importantly, you need to plan in advance, practice your plan, and keep it updated!



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## EMERGENCY CONTACT LIST

**Names, addresses and telephone numbers for:**

- Local Pet Shelters (Most public shelters will not allow pets: it is up to you to make alternative arrangements)
- Hotel/Motels that allow pets (within 100 mile radius)
- Boarding Facilities/Shelters (within 100 mile radius)
- Neighbors (Two or more)
- Out-of-state contact numbers of relatives or friends (work and home)
- Local animal rescue groups & humane societies
- City, county and state emergency response agencies
- Pet Supply and Feed stores

## PET SURVIVAL KIT:

**(For dogs, cats and other pets)**

- Make sure your pets are wearing proper identification: a collar with emergency tags (your name and your pet’s, home address & phone number, your vet’s phone number, your out-of-state contact number). A microchip is good proof of ownership if you know where your pet is, but may not be detected when the pet is found.
- Food & water (for at least 3-7 days; be sure to include a can opener)
- Pet medication, as prescribed by your veterinarian (enough for 30 days)
- Unbreakable bowls/containers for pet food and water
- Well-fitting collar, harness and leash
- Tie out and/or portable pet carrier
- Brush or comb (calms you, calms them)
- Familiar toy or chews (pets under stress will welcome a familiar item)
- Pet First Aid Kit (available at pet supply stores or your vet)
- Twin-size blanket
- Pet Documents (sealed in a zip lock bag)
  - Copy of dog or cat license
  - Copy of rabies vaccination certificate
  - Pet medical records
  - Pet photos (front and side views for positive identification; include any distinguishing markings or scars)

Be sure to rotate all medicines, food and water to keep them fresh. These items should be stored in a plastic tub and sealed with duct tape.

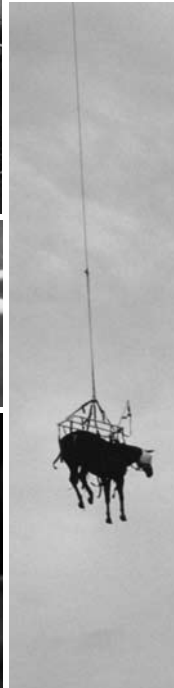
## Special Survival Tips For Other Companion Animals

- Make sure your pets, large and small, are properly identified.
- Transport small mammals such as hamsters, gerbils & ferrets in carriers that can maintain them while at a boarding location (take food, water, bowls, bottles, bedding, and other items.)



### Horses take special care

- Emergency supply kit should include halters, lead ropes, blankets, shipping boots, food, water, food and water buckets, health records, identification records, first aid kits for humans and animals, grooming supplies & garbage bags.
- Identify and secure — well in advance — several possible boarding locations locally and out-of-state. Be sure to have a trailer reserved for emergency use, if you do not have one or yours is not in good repair.



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When animals are threatened by disasters or victimized by cruelty, IFAW's Emergency Relief Team rushes to the rescue. Whether a dog or cat is stranded by flood waters, sea birds are threatened by oil spills, chimpanzees are confiscated from the illegal pet trade, or companion animals are separated from their owners during severe storms, IFAW is there to save them from suffering.

IFAW and other animal rescue organizations are committed to helping wild and domestic animals at risk from disasters, but you are your companion animal's most important lifeline. Be prepared!



[www.ifaw.org](http://www.ifaw.org)

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# DISASTER PREPARATION TIPS

## For You & Your Animal Companions



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*Minutes after a disaster strikes, you, your family, and your companion animals may need to leave home. Be prepared . . . stay safe . . . plan ahead.*

