



Pets' Emergency Activity Guide

Pets living in earthquake country need a well-prepared household. Neighborhoods need to be able to keep dogs, cats, and other pets in their area under control, safe and well after a disaster. Choose the activities here that work for you or your Group.

5-Minute Activities

1. Your Pets' Vaccination Certificates and Identification Papers – Individual Activity

It's impossible to predict how your pets will react in a disaster. They can panic and run away just as easily as they can crawl to you for a cuddle.

If you plan ahead for the possibility of being separated from your pets in an emergency, you will have an easier time getting them home safely with you.

Both you and your pets will be much happier if you can get back together easily and quickly. To make it easier to claim pets that have been taken to a shelter, you'll want the following documents on hand:

- Rabies vaccination record
- Microchip number or certificate
- Berkeley license papers, if applicable
- Other medical records, if applicable
- Recent photos of your pets, preferably with a family member in the photo

These papers may also be needed if you have to evacuate and put your pets into a temporary shelter.

TO DO NOW:

Get a one-gallon waterproof bag and put your pets' documentation (listed above) in it. Add the bag to your family's disaster kit.

If you are familiar with cloud storage tools such as Dropbox, you can also scan your pets' documents and upload them there. This will make the documents accessible from any computer that has Internet access.



2. “If we’re not home...” – Individual Activity

If everyone in your family is away from home during a disaster but your pets are home, who can check to make sure they are OK? Who will take care of them if you are not able to get home soon?

Your best option is a trusted neighbor who already has the keys to your house and comes over to take care of the pets when you’re out of town. This is someone your pets already know, so they are not as likely to run away and hide – or attack – when this friend comes in your door.

TO DO NOW:

Have a conversation with a trusted neighbor about what might happen in an emergency. Talk to them about where your pets may be hiding, where treats to lure them out are kept, where their carriers/crates are, and where your pets’ disaster supplies are kept.

If none of your neighbors has your keys, now is the time to choose someone you trust and get in touch with them to make these arrangements.

Give this person a signed letter authorizing emergency veterinary care for your pets; an example can be found here: <http://www.anapsid.org/acd/pet-limitedpoa.pdf>

Make sure your neighbor’s contact information is included on your emergency contact cards, as well as in your own mobile device or phone book.

3. Animals Live Here Stickers on Windows – Individual Activity

After an emergency, responders may go house to house to see if everyone is OK. These people need to know if there could be any animals loose in your house, and which door is safest for them to enter. This will help keep both responders and your pets safe.

“Animals Live Here” decals are available from most pet stores. You can also order free ones online at: <http://www.aspca.org/pet-care/disaster-preparedness>

TO DO NOW:

Attach a decal near every door that responders might enter. If you think that there’s a chance your dog(s) might attack strangers, put up an additional sign that says something like, “Goldie is frightened easily and can bite.”

If you think your pets may react badly to a stranger coming into your home after a disaster, make sure that muzzles, handling gloves, catch nets and other restraints can be found quickly and easily. You can even post notices on doors about where to find this gear.



4. Emergency Communication Cards – Individual Activity

If you ever become separated from your pets when they are in their cage, carrier, or crate, you want whoever finds your pets to have an easy time reaching you. Take time to attach communication cards today so you can be confident that your pets will get back to you if separated.

TO DO NOW:

Download and fill out the Emergency Communication Card template from:

http://www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Family_Emergency_Plan.pdf

Print a copy for each pet and laminate it with clear packing tape. Attach a copy to every crate or carrier.



5. Update Your Pets' Microchip Information Online – Individual Activity

Your pets' microchip should reflect all of your latest contact information and your current veterinarian. Have you checked it recently?

TO DO NOW:

If you know which microchip company your pets' microchips are registered with, go to the company website, create a log-in, and check that your contact information, pet photo, and veterinary contact are up-to-date. For example, if your microchips are from HomeAgain, start at www.homeagain.com.

If you do not know which microchip company your pets' microchips are with, you can start here to look it up: <http://www.petmicrochiplookup.org>.

If your pets do not have microchips, think about getting them for disaster preparedness. Even indoor pets can be lost or separated from their owners in emergencies, and a microchip can help to bring them safely home.



30-Minute Activities

6. Crate train your pets – Individual Activity

In an emergency, you may need to evacuate your pets quickly. Your pets will be safest in an evacuation if they are in a crate or carrier.

You can reduce the stress on both you and your animals by training your pets to enter their carriers or crates at your command.

TO DO NOW:

Although crate training certainly can't be completed in one day, start today with a basic practice.

Practice getting your pets into their carriers and putting them inside your vehicle. Repeat this process until your pets are comfortable in their carriers and being moved around while in their carriers.

Here are some tips for crate training:

- Try putting your pets' favorite treat in the carrier and sounding a bell or clicker at the same time.
- Repeat this process every day, until they come running at the sound of the bell/clicker.
- Continue this game often enough to keep it fresh in your pet's mind. They will remember this process longer than you may expect.



7. Check your pets' emergency food & water supply – Individual Activity

Because no one can predict when you'll be able to get to a pet food or grocery store after a disaster, you should keep a two-week supply of food and water for your pets in your disaster kit.

Should the food supply be dry or wet food? Each comes with pros and cons:

Dry Food	Wet Food
Less expensive	More expensive
Shorter shelf life	Longer shelf life
Must be stored in air- and water-tight container & moderate temperature	Requires a can opener (unless you use pop-top cans)



You should stock whichever type of food is best for you and your pets.

Have some of your pets' favorite treats on hand as well. This can be an excellent way to relieve some of their stress. Treats are also a good way to lure pets into crates/carriers.

Just as you rotate your emergency supply of human food, do the same with your pets' food. Each time you purchase pet food, you can rotate the new food into your disaster kit. This is an easy way to keep a fresh supply of food in your kit!

You also need to store an emergency supply of water for your pets. Their need for water will be increased by the stress they are feeling. A good rule of thumb is to multiply their normal water consumption by 3. Here is suggested water storage for pets:

Pet	Gallons to store (14 days worth)
10 pound cat/dog	3 ½ gallons
20 pound cat/dog	7 gallons
30 pound dog	10 ½ gallons

TO DO NOW:

Check your disaster kit and make sure you have a 14-day supply of water and unexpired food for your pet(s).

9. Check and Restock Disaster Supplies – Individual Activity

If your family already has a disaster supply kit for your pets, this yearly Exercise is a good time to check it and update it.

If you don't yet have a disaster supply kit, refer to the 2-hour activity to begin creating a disaster kit now.

TO DO NOW:

Check your emergency supplies such as food, water, and medicine. Here are some things to look for:

- 14-day supply of water and unexpired food (described in Activity #8)
- Medications still usable
- Extra collars and harnesses still fit
- Reserve leashes are in good condition
- Blankets and towels are clean and usable
- Contact information on carriers is up-to-date
- Out-of-area contact information included on carriers



10. Confirm Arrangements with your “Pet Buddy” – Individual Activity

Many shelters may not be able to accept pets, even small ones. Service animals that assist people with disabilities are usually allowed in 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. Have a reciprocal agreement with a “pet buddy” outside of your neighborhood in the case evacuation becomes necessary. 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.

TO DO NOW:

Call your “pet buddy” and confirm your reciprocal sheltering arrangement is still in place. Make sure your pet buddy’s contact information is included on your emergency contact cards as well as in your own mobile device or phone book.

Give this person a signed letter authorizing emergency veterinary care for your pet; an example can be found here: <http://www.anapsid.org/acd/pet-limitedpoa.pdf>

If you do not have a pet buddy arrangement in place, now is the time to make one!



2-Hour Activities

11. Start Building a Disaster Kit for Your Pets – Individual/Family Activity

Every family should have a disaster supply kit in or outside the home for their pets. Being prepared for a disaster means not only surviving the initial event, but also keeping your family and pets calm, comfortable, fed and clean in the days and weeks following an event. Keep your disaster kit in a place where you'll have easy access to it if your house shifts. You also want to have it locked and not easily noticed from the street.

What should you pets' disaster kit include? Here are recommendations from several animal care organizations:

- Current papers in a protected cover—copy of license, rabies vaccination certificates, and Chip numbers for Microchipped animals
- Pet first-aid kit and guide book (ask your vet what to include, or visit the [ASPCA Store](#) to buy one online)
- Brief description of each animal's personality and quirks
- 14 days' worth food and water
- Paper towels or bedding for small animals
- Liquid dish soap and disinfectant
- Disposable garbage bags and smaller plastic bags for clean-up
- Pet feeding dishes
- Extra collars or harnesses as well as an extra leashes
- Combs & brushes if you use them often
- Photocopies of medical records and a waterproof container with a two-week supply of any medicine your pet requires (Remember, food and medications need to be rotated out of your emergency kit—otherwise they may go bad or become useless.)
- A traveling bag, crate or sturdy carrier, ideally one for each pet
- Favorite toys and treats
- Old clothing with your scent in case your pet has to be in a temporary shelter
- Flashlight
- Blanket (for scooping up a fearful pet, or to cover a bird's cage)
- Recent photos of your pets (in case you are separated and need to make "Lost" posters)
- Especially for cats: Pillowcase or EvackSack, toys, scoopable litter, disposable litter trays (aluminum roasting pans are perfect)
- Especially for dogs: Extra leash, toys and chew toys, a week's worth of cage liner.
- Muzzles if needed
- Calming medications if your veterinarian agrees
- Booties to protect feet and cover wounds (available at Target & other stores)



TO DO NOW:

Begin creating an emergency kit for your household by gathering the items on the list above. You may not be able to gather all of the items on the list in a single day, but try to find a few items that you can set aside today.

For more information visit:

- <http://www.ready.gov/kit>

For more information regarding disaster prep for birds, fish, hamsters and other small pets see:

- <http://www.cityofchesapeake.net/Government/City-Departments/Departments/fire/emergman/emergency-info/Plan-Ahead-and-Prepare/em-hurr-pets.htm>
- Regarding Aquariums in power outages:
<http://www.peteducation.com/article.cfm?c=16+2154&aid=2402>

12. Start Building a First Aid Kit for Your Pets – Individual/Family Activity

Unlike all of us who have been trained to Duck & Cover, your pets could easily be exposed to flying glass, books, furniture and other objects during an earthquake. So they may be bleeding from cuts, have sprains and/or broken bones, bruises, even bites from their siblings. You can't plan on easily taking them to your vet to have all of these problems fixed immediately. But you can have a First Aid Kit that allows you to bind up their wounds and make them comfortable until it is possible to get them to a veterinary clinic.

Fortunately you already have many of the First Aid supplies you are likely to need. Gauze bandages work just as well for cats and dogs as they do for us. But since it's impossible to list all of the First Aid supplies that will work for amphibians, reptiles, pocket pets, cats, and dogs ranging from 5 pounds to 150 pounds on one sheet of paper, here is a list of web sites to visit so you can build a First Aid kit that's specific for your pets:

- http://www.redcross.org/images/MEDIA_CustomProductCatalog/m4440087_First_Aid_Kit_for_Pets.pdf
- <http://www.aspcaonlinestore.com/product/36422>
- http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/resources/tips/pet_first_aid_kit.html
- http://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1390846777239-dc08e309debe561d866b05ac84daf1ee/pets_2014.pdf



Berkeley & Albany Citywide
Emergency Exercise

October 18, 2014

- <http://www.bepreparedcalifornia.ca.gov/BePrepared/IndividualsAndFamilies/Pages/DisasterPlanningTipsforPetLivestockOwner.aspx>
- <http://www.eastbayvivarium.com/caresheets/caresheets.html>

TO DO NOW:

Using the lists in the above links, begin to set aside the first aid supplies you need for your pet.