

Welcome

Summer is here and things are getting back to semi normal! Hope this finds everyone well and looking forward to good times again. June is "National Pet Preparedness Month", so we will be listing some suggestions for you to help you to be prepared in case of a disaster. If you have any questions or have a topic you would like to hear about please contact our staff at 630-365-9599 or you can contact us via email at 3lburn@sbcglobal.net.

Emergencies come in many forms, and can require anything from a brief absence from your home to permanent evacuation. Each type of disaster requires different measures to keep your pets safe, so the best thing you can do is to be prepared.

*Get a rescue alert sticker

This sticker will let people know that you have pets inside your home. Make sure it is visible to rescue workers, such as on or near your front door, and that it includes types and number of pets in your home and also the name and number of your veterinarian.



*Arrange a safe place

Arrange a safe place for your pets in the event of an evacuation. Don't

leave your pets behind! If it isn't safe for you, it isn't safe for your pets. Not all shelters will accept pets, so it is important that you have determined where you will bring your pets ahead of time.

*Contact your vet for a list of preferred boarding kennels

*Ask your local animal shelter if they provide emergency shelter or foster care for pets

*Identify hotels or motels outside of your immediate area that accept pets. Some of the hotels/motels that allow pets are: Best Western, Red Roof Inn, Motel 6, Marriott, Comfort Inn, Hampton Inn, and Days Inn. Some however do impose size restrictions, so best to check first.

*Ask friends or relatives outside of your immediate area if they would be willing to take in your pet in case of an emergency

*Choose designated caregivers

When choosing a temporary caregiver, consider someone who lives close to your residence. This should be someone you trust, who is home during the day while you are at work or has easy access to your home. Provide this individual with a set of keys to your home. When selecting this person, remember this is a person who you are entrusting with the care of your pet should something happen to you. Consider people who have experience in caring for animals and someone your pet is familiar with. Discuss your expectations with this caregiver, so they understand the responsibility of caring for your pet.

***Prepare emergency supplies and traveling kits**

If you must evacuate your home in an emergency, plan for the worst case scenario. Just assume you may have to be gone for several weeks. To minimize evacuation time, take these simple steps:

*Make sure all pets wear collars with up to date identification information. Your pets ID should include his name, your telephone number and any urgent medical needs. Also be sure to write your pet's name, your name and contact information on your pet's carrier.

*Microchip your pet as a more permanent form of identification. Always make sure to update your pet's microchip information through the manufacturer if you move or change your contact information.

*Always bring pets indoors at the first sign or warning of a storm or disaster. Pets can become disoriented and wander away from home in a crisis.

*Store an emergency kit and leashes close to an exit. Make sure that everyone in your household knows where it is, and that it is clearly labeled and easy to carry. Items to consider keeping in your emergency kit are:

- * Per first aid kit and guide book
- * 3 - 7 days' worth of canned or dry food (be sure to rotate expired food)
- * Disposable litter trays
- * Litter or paper towels
- * Feeding dishes and water bowls
- * Extra collar or harness and extra leash

* Photocopies of medical records and a waterproof container with a 2 week supply of any medicine your pet is taking (remember to rotate medicine also as needed)

* At least 7 days' worth of bottled water for each person and pet

* Flashlight and blanket

* Recent photos of your pets (in case you get separated)

* Cats - pillowcase, toys, scoop-able litter

* Dogs - Extra leash, toys and chew toys, weeks' worth of cage line (old newspaper etc.)

You should also have an emergency kit for the human members of your family too. Include: Batteries, duct tape, flashlight, radio, multi-tool, tarp, rope, permanent marker, spray paint, baby wipes, protective clothing and foot wear, extra cash, rescue whistle, important phone numbers, extra medication and copies of medical and insurance information.



***Geographic considerations:** If you live in an area that is prone to tornadoes or floods, you should plan accordingly and always evacuate early.

Determine in advance which rooms offer safe shelter. These rooms should be clear of windows, flying debris, etc.

Choose easy to clean areas such as utility rooms, bathrooms and basements as safe zones.

Access to a supply of fresh water is particularly important. In areas that lose electricity, fill up bathtubs and sinks ahead of time to ensure that you have access to water during a power outage or other crisis.

In the event of flooding, go to the highest location in your home, or a room that has access to counters or high shelves where your animals can take shelter.



Special consideration for birds:

*Birds should be transported in a secure cage or travel carrier

In cold weather, make sure you have a blanket over your pet's cage.

*In warm weather, carry a spray bottle of water to moisten your pet's feathers

*Have recent photos

*If the carrier doesn't have a perch, make sure to line with paper towels that you can change

frequently

* Keep carrier in as quiet an area as possible

*Items to keep on hand: Catch net, heavy towel, blanket or sheet to cover cage, cage liner

Special consideration for reptiles

- A snake may be transported in a pillowcase, but you should have permanent housing for them when you reach a safe place
- Take a sturdy bowl that is large enough for them to soak in. Also bring also bring a heating pad or warming device, such as hot water bottle.
- Lizards can be transported like birds

Special consideration for small animals

*Small animals such as hamsters, gerbils, mice, and guinea pigs should be transported in secure carriers with bedding material, food and food bowls.

*Items to keep on hand: salt lick, extra water bottle, small hide box or tube, a weeks' worth of bedding.





If you have any questions or comments, please email us at 3lburn@sbcglobal.net or call 630-365-9599! If you have a subject you would like covered in our newsletter please let us know!