

Pet Preparedness Month Toolkit

When we think about preparing for a disaster or emergency, we often think about what we need to pack in a [disaster kit or go bag](#), or what kind of [communication plan](#) we need to have in place to make sure family and friends know we're safe. But have you thought about what you might need to do to make sure your pets are as prepared as you are? The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), along With the Ready Campaign, are teaming up to highlight the Importance of [pet preparedness](#) during the month of June.

This toolkit is designed to provide you with messaging that can be used to promote pet preparedness Within your community. In addition, there are online resources and social media messaging that you can use to promote preparedness actions that Will help keep individuals, families, and their pets safer during a disaster.

KEY MESSAGES

Make a Plan

- 0 If you have a plan in place for you and your pets, you will likely encounter less difficulty, stress, and worry when you need to make decisions during an emergency.



2 FEMA

If, local officials ask you to evacuate, that means your pet should evacuate as well.

If you leave your pets behind, they may end up lost, injured, or worse.

Prepare a [Pet Emergency Supply Kit](#) Before a Disaster

- Just as you do with your [family's emergency supply kit](#), think first about the basics your pet needs for survival, such as food and water.
- Have two [fl](#), one larger kit if you are sheltering in place and one lightweight version for if you need to evacuate.
- Review your kits regularly to ensure that their contents, especially food and medicines, are fresh.

Tips for Large Animals

- Ensure all animals have some form of Identification.
- Evacuate animals earlier, whenever possible. Map out primary and secondary routes in advance.
- Make sure vehicles and trailers that are needed for transporting and supporting each type of animal are available. Also, make sure experienced handlers and drivers are available.
- Ensure destinations have food, water, veterinary care, and handling equipment.
- If evacuation is not possible, animal owners must decide whether to move large animals to a barn or turn them loose outside.

Stay Informed

- Being prepared means staying informed of current conditions. Listen to local officials when told to take shelter or evacuate.
- Always bring pets indoors at the first sign or warning of a storm or disaster.
- Pay attention to [Wireless emergency alerts](#) for local alerts and warnings sent by state and local public safety officials.

Download the [FEMA app](#) and get weather alerts from the National Weather Service for up to five different locations anywhere in the United States.

TALKING POINTS

Prepare Your Pets for a Disaster or Emergency

- Have an evacuation plan for your pet. Many public shelters and hotels do not allow pets inside. Know a safe place where you can take your pets before disasters and emergencies happen.
- Develop a buddy system. Plan with neighbors, friends, or relatives to make sure that someone is available to care for or evacuate your pets if you are unable to do so.
- Have your pet microchipped. Make sure to keep your address and phone number up to date and include contact information for an emergency contact outside of your immediate area.
- Contact your local emergency management office, animal shelter or animal control office to get additional advice and information if you're unsure how to care for your pet in case of an emergency.
- Build a pet emergency supply kit and keep it with your family emergency supply kit. Things you may want to put in your pet's kit include food, water, medicine, a first aid kit, collar with ID tag, a harness or leash, a traveling bag, crate, or sturdy carrier, grooming items, sanitation items, a current picture of you and your pet together, and familiar items like toys, treats, and bedding.

Be an Example

- Be a helpful influence in your community by sharing your pet preparedness story. Let your friends and family know what you did to take the steps to prepare your pets for an emergency or disaster and how they can do the same.
- Studies show that individuals need to receive messages several ways before taking appropriate action.
- Most people are more likely to act when the messages they receive are from a trusted source like family, friends, or a community leader.
- Share the actions you've taken to be prepared with your family and friends by posting your story on your "some" media site.

Have an emergency plan and know what to do before a disaster strikes. Post your plan in your home or business where others can see it.

Considerations for COVID 19

- A small number of pets worldwide, including cats and dogs, have been reported to be infected with the virus that causes COVID 19, mostly after close contact with people with COVID 19.
- Based on the information available to date, the risk of animals spreading COVID 19 to people is considered to be low.
- The virus that causes COVID 19 can spread from people to animals in some situations, mostly during close contact.
- Treat pets as you would other human family members. Do not let pets interact with people outside the household.
- If a person inside the household becomes sick, isolate that person from everyone else, including pets.
- Wear a mask when in public to slow the spread of COVID 19. You may not have time to put on a mask in the event of a disaster. Wearing one regularly will allow you to be prepared to evacuate or shelter safely with those who are not a part of your household. Masks should not be worn by children under two, those who have trouble breathing, and those who are unable to remove them on their own.

Engage virtually with your community through video and phone calls. Know that it is normal to feel anxious or stressed. Take care of your body and talk to someone if you are feeling upset. Many people may already feel fear and anxiety about the coronavirus 2019 (COVID 19). Follow CDC guidance for [managing stress during a traumatic event](#) and [managing stress during COVID 19](#).

