



## In the Case of Evacuation –

- **PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PET(S) BEHIND.**
- When you evacuate your pet(s) with you and your Family, simply write “EVACUATED” across the “Pets Inside” stickers so that rescue workers do not put themselves at risk by entering your home looking for the pet.
- Remember to take your previously prepared emergency kits for you, your Family, and your pet(s).

Being prepared when a disaster or emergency hits can reduce the impact of the disaster on your Family and decrease the fear, anxiety, and stress that your Family experiences. Following these helpful tips will assist your Family in being ready to respond to a crisis when it unexpectedly strikes home.

If you have horses, livestock, birds, reptiles, or other small animals, remember to include ALL of your animals in your disaster/emergency preparedness planning.



Please **schedule** an **appointment** with your veterinarian to discuss any questions or concerns!

## Checklist:

- Develop an Emergency Preparedness Plan
- Develop a Communication Plan
- Identify escape routes and safe areas to shelter
- Create a Family Emergency Kit
- Create a Pet Emergency Kit
- Activate emergency plans as soon as you have advanced warning of an approaching disaster
- Know what to do for you, your Family, and your pets in case of evacuation

## Additional resources:

- <https://www.avma.org/public/EmergencyCare/Pages/Pets-and-Disasters.aspx>
- <https://www.ready.gov/considerations/military-family-preparedness> for information specific to **military families**
- <https://www.fema.gov/>



<http://phc.amedd.army.mil>  
1-800-222-9698

APHC Animal Health

This information brochure was written by Army Veterinary Services personnel and published by the Army Public Health Center to inform and educate Service members, beneficiaries, and retirees about Animal Health. Comments or questions regarding content can be directed to [ARMY-VSPublications@mail.mil](mailto:ARMY-VSPublications@mail.mil). Locate your local Veterinary Treatment Facility at <https://tiny.army.mil/r/JG66r/VTFs>



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Pet Safety

# Emergency preparedness



Be prepared for when a disaster or emergency hits.

Your Veterinary Treatment Facility can help!



DOGS



CATS



RABBITS



POCKET PETS



HORSES



REPTILES / AMPHIBIANS



BIRDS

Army Public Health Center Animal Health

Emergencies span the spectrum from large-scale disasters to unexpected events. Proper planning and preparation are critical to being ready to respond when an emergency hits your home and Family. Developing a plan for your Family members, both two and four-legged, will help ensure you are able to effectively respond to any scenario. Planning ahead will decrease stress and anxiety when an event occurs.

Different regions may experience different disasters. When relocating to your new assignment, contact the installation readiness and emergency management office as well as the local Red Cross or the Emergency Management Agency to learn the types of hazards that may exist in your area. Focus your emergency preparedness planning accordingly. Additionally, discover the notification system used by your area to warn residents of threats (telephone alert, siren, speaker, and so forth) so that you quickly recognize and respond to warnings when they occur.

## Develop a Plan

Develop an emergency preparedness plan that includes ALL of your Family members, including your pets. A solid plan includes establishing a good communication plan, identifying safe shelters for both you and your pets, assembling portable Emergency Preparedness Kits for you and your pets, and knowing what to do after the disaster to help with recovery.

## Develop a Communication Plan

Oftentimes when a disaster hits, common lines of communication become unavailable (cell phone service, social media, and email). Discuss a plan with your Family members to establish contact in the event a disaster reaches your home.

- Have a list of telephone numbers for Family (and friends) to locate each other during a crisis and then determine the next best plan of action.
- When you cannot establish communication, identify a common meeting point and out-of-town point of contact.
- Make sure each Family member has up-to-date contact information for other Family members. This emergency contact information should be stored in their cell phone "contacts" list and should also be posted in an easily accessible location within the home.

## Identify Escape Routes and Safe Areas to Take Shelter

Explore your home for safe areas to shelter in case of emergencies. Identify and label these shelter locations on a floor plan of your home, and ensure everyone knows where to go. Remember that safe areas may differ depending on the type of disaster.

## Create a Pet Emergency Kit

Emergency kits are commonly thought of as simply First-Aid kits. However, a complete emergency supply kit is much more inclusive. Tailor the emergency kits to meet the needs of your Family, accounting for all members, including pets. Inventory the contents at least twice a year to check expiration dates, especially for food products and batteries. Specific pet emergency kit items include:

- At least a 2-week supply of pet food, water, and required medications.
- Food and water dishes, and manual can opener (if needed).
- Pet first-aid kit.
- Crate or other pet carrier.
- Collar and/or harness with up-to-date rabies vaccination tag and ID tag (include your cell phone number) and leash.
- Important documents in a waterproof container or plastic bag (veterinary medical record, vaccination record, microchip information, picture of you and your pet together, important phone numbers and contact information for your pet's veterinarian).
- Sanitation items as appropriate, such as cat litter, paper towels, newspapers, puppy training pads, plastic trash bags, and regular household liquid bleach (do not use color-safe, scented, or bleach with additives).
- Bedding, treats, and familiar toys to reduce stress.

**Following these helpful tips will assist your Family in being ready to respond to a crisis when it unexpectedly strikes home.**

## If You Have Advanced Warning of an Approaching Disaster

Start emergency preparations for all members of your Family, including your pets.

- Check with designated emergency shelters to see if they will accept pets. If not, find out which shelters will and, if possible, make advanced arrangements for your pets.
- Know which hotels and motels outside your area will accept pets. Keep a list with your emergency kit of phone numbers and addresses for kennels, pet-friendly lodging, animal shelters, and veterinary facilities that are outside of your local area.
- All pets should be up-to-date on their rabies vaccination and microchipped with an International Standards Organization-compliant microchip (15 digits). Microchipping will help reunite you with your pet in the event you get separated before, during, or after the disaster. Remember to register the microchip with a contact number so the microchip contact agency can reach you if you are away from home.
- Discuss any additional preventive measures your pet may need in the case of an emergency or evacuation with your veterinarian.
- Check to make sure all your pets have collars with up-to-date rabies vaccination tags and ID tags with your contact information, including your cell phone number.
- Go through your Pet Emergency Kit to ensure that nothing is missing or outdated and it is ready to go at a moment's notice.
- Display "Pets Inside" stickers on exterior windows of your home. This will indicate to rescue workers that a pet may be inside the home.
- If your pets are outside, bring them inside. This will help protect them from outside dangers and will keep them close at hand in case you have to leave quickly.

