

May 26-June 1, 2013 National Tornado Preparedness Week



Devastating natural and man-made disasters can ravage our lives. No one is exempt from the possibility of being affected personally. You need to prepare for yourself and for your animals in case of disaster.

Whether it's a tornado, hurricane, earthquake, fire, or flood, the most important thing you can do for your pets is be prepared. Of course, you should already have the basics in place whether you have dogs or not – an emergency kit, a plan for both evacuation and to shelter in place, flashlights, batteries, and enough food and water for at least three days.

This document provides some of the highlights of the AVMA's Disaster Preparedness Guide (www.avma.org) and marketing strategies to help educate your clients.

Communication Strategies for your clinic or organization:

- Partner with community groups such as the Police and Fire Departments, Red Cross to name a few. Host a client education event and provide the tools and resources for those attending.
- Hold a Pet CPR Class or Blood Drive.
- Offer services and products to prepare for your clients. This includes micro-chipping, ThunderShirts[®], Emergency Kits, etc.
- Become the collection point for donations, pet food, supplies, blankets, etc.



To Prepare Do the Following:

- Make an appointment with your veterinarian to discuss your disaster plan.
- Prepare emergency kits specifically for your pets. This includes portable food and water bowls, extra collars and leashes, first aid and enough food and water for 72 hours, sealed in air-tight containers. Your kit should include a pre-authorized letter to provide veterinary care.
- Have proper identification. They should have at least a collar with secure ID tags or ideally pets have a microchip. A waterproof bag attached to the collar with vital information including copies of vaccination records
- Have recent photos of your pets with every member of your family, especially if you get separated. It shows proof it's your pet and helps in locating it.
- Rehearse our evacuation plan regularly with our family including the pets.

Other important information to be prepared:

Know in advance where your pet will go if you must evacuate, because many disaster shelters do not allow pets. Be prepared with a boarding kennel, dog-loving friend or family member's house, or a pet-friendly hotel. Many veterinary hospitals also offer boarding services.

If you have to leave the pet behind or you are not at home, leave them inside your home with enough food and water for several days, and tack evacuation cards to all exterior doors with information and instructions for rescue workers. You should never leave your dog outside in the yard, and especially not chained, in the case of an emergency evacuation. Preplace stickers on front and back house doors, barn doors, and pasture entrances to notify neighbors, fire fighters, police, and other rescue personnel that animals are on your property and where to find your evacuation supplies.

Disaster Plan In Case You Are Not At Home



- Provide a list near your evacuation supplies of the number, type, and location of your animals, noting favorite hiding spots, in order to save precious rescue time.
- To facilitate a successful rescue, provide muzzles, handling gloves, catch nets, and animal restraints where rescue personnel can find them. Keep in mind that animals may become unpredictable when frightened.
- Designate a willing neighbor to tend to your animals in the event that a disaster occurs when you are not at home. This person should have a key to your home, be familiar with your animals, know your evacuation procedures, and know where your evacuation supplies are kept.
- In your evacuation kit, keep a pre-signed letter that releases your neighbor from responsibility if one of your animals becomes injured during the evacuation.
- You may also want to have a pre-signed veterinary medical treatment authorization with your Evacuation Kit – this will aid your veterinarian if your animal must be treated during your absence.

Check List is for your Small Pets in case of a Disaster or Crisis

Small Animal

- collar tag (a piece of tape applied to the back of the collar tag can provide evacuation site information – use waterproof ink) for each pet
- microchip
- tattoo
- temporary neckband
- waterproof pouch attached to collar with identification
- information inside
- many reptiles may be marked with a permanent felt-tipped marker
- clear identification on cage/housing for confined animals



Collapsible cage or airline approved carriers should also be available for each pet, and bedded properly, for transportation and housing purposes - owning enough carriers to accommodate your pets facilitates a speedy evacuation and may mean the difference between the life or death of your pet.

Familiarize your animals with evacuation procedures and cages/carriers. Take the cage/carrier out several times a year and put dog or cat treats inside with blankets and toys. By doing this, you hope to reinforce positive feelings associated with the animal carrier.

Cat carriers should be large enough to hold a small litter pan and two small dishes and still allow your cat enough room to lie down comfortably or stand to use the litter pan.

Dog kennels or collapsible cages should be large enough to hold two no-spill bowls and still allow enough room for your dog to stand and turn around.

For added assurance, clearly label each carrier with your identification and contact information.

Locate and prearrange an evacuation site for your family and animals outside your immediate area. Ideally, this will be a friend/relative or a pet-friendly hotel that is willing to let your family and animals stay in the event of a disaster. Other possible animal housing options include veterinary hospitals, boarding kennels, and animal shelters.

Other Small Animals

Transportation of most small mammals (ferrets, hamsters, gerbils, rats, mice, guinea pigs, etc.) is best accomplished using a secure, covered carrier or cage to reduce stress.

In addition to the pertinent items listed under small animal evacuation kit, include:

- necessary dietary supplements
- extra bedding materials
- appropriate exercise equipment



Birds

Transportation of pet birds is best accomplished using small, secure, covered carriers to avoid injury.

If traveling in cold weather, always warm the interior of your vehicle before moving your bird(s) from the house to the vehicle.

Transfer your bird(s) to a standard cage upon arrival at the evacuation site; covering the cage may reduce stress; this transfer should occur in a small, enclosed room to reduce the risk of escape.

Birds should be kept in quiet areas and not allowed out of the cage in unfamiliar surroundings. Fresh food and water should be provided daily.

If your bird appears ill, be sure to lower the cage perch, food dish, and water bowl and consult a veterinarian as soon as possible.

In addition to the pertinent items listed under small animal evacuation kit, include:

- necessary dietary supplements
- plant mister for cooling birds in hot weather
- hot water bottle for warming birds in cold weather
- materials to line the bottom of the cage
- cage perch
- toys

Reptiles

Transportation of small reptiles can be accomplished using a pillowcase, cloth sack, or small transport carrier.

If possible, promote defecation before transporting the animal (for example allow tortoises, lizards, or snakes to soak in a shallow water bath before bagging or caging).

Transfer your pet to a secure cage at the evacuation site as soon as possible and if appropriate.

In addition to the pertinent items listed under small animal evacuation kit, include:

- essential dietary supplements
- water bowl for soaking
- spray bottle for misting
- extra bags or newspapers
- heating pad
- battery-operated heating source or other appropriate heat source
- extra batteries
- appropriate handling gloves/supplies

Since most reptiles do not eat daily, feeding during evacuation circumstances may increase stress. Determine if feeding is in the animal's best interest, especially if the container may become fouled.

Housing at the evacuation facility should be consistent with that required by the reptile. The enclosure should, if possible, be placed in a controlled environment, away from areas of heavy traffic, loud noises, and vibrations.

Make sure that the container housing the reptile is escape proof. Nonetheless, plan for escapes. Identification, medical records, and proof of ownership are equally as important for other kinds of pets as for the aforementioned animals. Transportation of these species may require additional attention and care in order to decrease chances of stress-induced illness and death. It is important to keep pets from different sources as separate as possible and maintain the best possible hygiene in order to decrease disease transmission.

Amphibians

Transportation of amphibians can be accomplished by using watertight plastic bags, such as the ones used for pet fish transport, or plastic containers, such as plastic shoeboxes or plastic food containers with snap-on lids.

It is best to place only one species or if possible only one animal per container.

Small ventilation holes should be placed in the upper wall or plastic lid. Smooth the inner surface of the holes with a file or sandpaper to prevent injury to the animal.

For terrestrial or semi aquatic amphibians use a tiny amount of water, or moistened paper towels, clean foam rubber, or moss as a suitable substrate.

For aquatic species, fill the plastic bag one third full of water, then inflate the bag with fresh air and close with a knot or rubber band. It is best to use clean water from the animal's enclosure to minimize physiologic stress.

Care must be taken to monitor water and air temperature, humidity, lighting, and nutrition during the time that the animal will be in the evacuation facility.

Housing at the evacuation facility should be consistent with that required by the amphibian. The enclosure should, if possible, be placed in a controlled environment, away from areas of heavy traffic, loud noises, and vibrations.

Make sure that the container housing the amphibian is escape proof. Nonetheless, plan for escapes.

Take an extra container of water, clean moist paper towels or clean moss as is appropriate in case any of your pet's containers break or leak.

Feeding during evacuation circumstances may increase stress so it may not be in the animal's best interests to supply food, especially if the water may become fouled.

Check list for your Equine and Livestock

Having identification on your animals, including rabies and license tags, if applicable, may help reunite you with your animal(s) in the event that you are separated. Identification should provide your name, home address, a phone number where you can be reached, and an out-of-state phone number of someone with whom you will be in contact during or soon after the disaster/evacuation. If possible, include your veterinarian's name, location, and phone number.

Examples of forms of identification are listed below:

- microchip
- tattoo
- halter tag
- neck collars
- leg band
- brand
- mane clip
- luggage tag braided into tail or mane
- clipper-shaved information in the animals' hair
- livestock marking crayon, non-toxic, non-water-soluble, spray paint, or non-water-soluble marker to write on the animals' side
- permanent marker to mark hooves
- neck chain
- ear notches
- leg band
- ear tag



- brand
- livestock marking crayon, non-toxic, non-water-soluble spray paint, or markers
- to write on the animals' side • wattle notching
- ear tattoo
- back or tail tag

Additional important information to have with your records:

- State veterinarian
- State veterinary colleges or land grant colleges of agriculture
- Private stables/farms
- County Extension office; this is especially important for livestock owners
- Brand inspector, if applicable
- Applicable state and county livestock associations
- Racetracks
- Fairgrounds
- Show grounds
- Stockyards
- Equestrian centers
- Local haulers or neighbors to help with transportation
- Feed distributor

Evacuation of Equine or Livestock:

Equine/livestock evacuation can be challenging. Develop an evacuation plan and make sure that animals are familiar with being loaded onto a trailer.

Premises with facilities that are specifically designed to load and handle livestock will be much more successful in evacuating and relocating livestock.

Locate and prearrange an evacuation site for your animals outside your immediate area.

Possible sites include:

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| • veterinary or land grant colleges | • fairgrounds |
| • racetracks | • equestrian centers |
| • show grounds | • livestock corrals |
| • pastures | • stockyards or auction facilities |
| • stables | • other boarding facilities |

If you do not have enough trailers to transport quickly, contact neighbors, local haulers, farmers, producers, or other transportation providers to establish a network of available and reliable resources that will provide transportation in the event of a disaster.

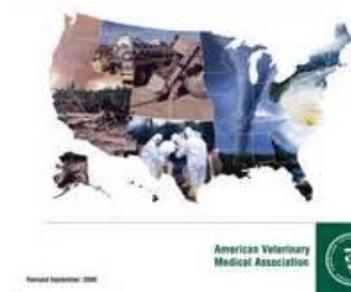
It is important to separate animals from different households as much as possible and to maintain the best possible hygiene to decrease disease transmission.

Make copies of medical records for livestock:

If an individual animal is or has been medically treated *and* is still under a withdrawal period, a treatment record *must* be maintained. The record must include animal's ID or group ID, date of treatment/s, the drug used and the drug manufacturer's serial or lot number, dosage of drug administered, route and location of administration, and the person administering the drug. The earliest date the animal could clear the withdrawal period for the administered drug should also be listed.



This is a list of the items ideally you should have to prepare in case of any disaster. Contact the AVMA.org for complete details and resources.



Make photocopies of important veterinary documents to store in the evacuation kit. They should include:

- Vaccination records
- Vaccination type and date
- Rabies certificate, if applicable

Medical history

Important test results, such as Feline Leukemia/Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (*FelV/FIV*), heartworm, equine infectious anemia (*Coggins test*), tuberculosis, and brucellosis

Medical conditions and medications (*including drug name, dosage, and frequency of dosing*)

If your animal has a microchip, a record of the microchip number

Make copies of registration information, adoption papers, proof of purchase, and microchip information to store in the evacuation kit. List each one of your animals and their species, breed, age, sex, color, and distinguishing characteristics.

Keep current photographs of your animals in the evacuation kit for identification purposes. Include yourself in some of the photos to help you reclaim your lost animal(s).

Consider preparing waterproof "Lost Pet" signs with your animal's photo attached, your name, and your contact information to use in case your animal is lost. If your pet has a microchip, call the company to register your pet's information and make sure to keep that information updated.

- Numbers where you may be reached (pager, cell phone, work phone and alternative phone in case cell phones do not work)
- Your prearranged evacuation site
- Local contact person in case of emergency when you are not available
- Out-of-state contact person
- Your veterinarian's name, clinic name, and phone numbers
- Alternate veterinarian (30-90 miles away, provides boarding)
- Boarding facility (local)
- Boarding facility (30-90 miles away)
- Hotels that allow pets (90 mile radius)
- Local Animal Control
- Local Police Department
- Local Fire Department
- Local Public Health Department
- Local animal shelter
- Local Red Cross chapter
- Local humane society
- Local Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA)
- List of internet "lost and found" animal sites

Additional resources

- American Association of Equine Practitioners (www.aaep.org/emergency_prep.htm)
- American Association of Bovine Practitioners (www.aabp.org)
- American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners (www.aasrp.org)
- American Association of Swine Veterinarians (www.aasp.org)
- US DA-APHIS Veterinarian-in-Charge (www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/nvap/vsoffice.html)
- USDA-APHIS Area Emergency Coordinator

Prepare this list now before a disaster strikes. Include addresses and 24-hour contact numbers, if available.

These contacts can be used by rescue personnel responding to a disaster affecting your animals or by you during a disaster or an evacuation. Keep one copy near your telephone and one copy in your animal evacuation kit.



For more information go to:

www.VeterinaryEducationNetwork.com

or contact us at info@veterinaryeducationnetwork.com

or 1-800-680-4080.

Be Safe, Be Prepared and Be Informed!