

Tips to Help Pets Cope with an Emergency



In addition to the human members of your family, you should make sure that your pets are taken care of after a disaster. Here are some things to think about when planning for pets.

- **Pets Can Be Frightened By Disasters:** During a disaster, your pet may become frightened. The animal may not react normally, so extra caution in handling the animal is advised.
- **Pets May Not Be Allowed in Human Shelters:** You should pre-identify boarding kennels, or other places where your pets could be sheltered after a disaster.
- **Keep Leashes and Carriers Handy:** Make sure you include leashes and pet carriers in your disaster supply kit. See the Disaster Supply Kit section of this manual for more information about what other things to include in your disaster supply kit.
- **Identify Your Pet:** Your pet should wear an ID tag on their collar. Tattoos, or electronic identifications should also be considered. Your local Humane Society will have more information on these options. Finally, make sure you have a recent photo of your pet.

If You Lose Your Pet

If you lose your pet during a disaster, here are some things you can do to try to find your pet:

- **Create a Flyer:** Include a photo. Describe as many distinctive marks as possible. Include the pet's name, your name and a phone number where you can be reached. Post your flyer in supermarkets, Laundromats, schools, veterinary hospitals, bulletin boards, bus stops, and anywhere else you can think of. Give flyers to neighbors also.
- **Visit The Animal Shelters:** Visit your local animal shelters at least every other day, if not every day.
- **Let Neighborhood People Know:** Let your mail carrier, meter readers, garbage collector, newspaper carrier, and neighborhood children know about your lost pet.
- **Check the Newspaper:** Check the "Found Pets" section of your local newspaper. Place a "Lost Pet" ad in the newspaper. You can also try contacting local radio stations.
- **For Purebred Pets:** You can contact your breeder, and the rescue club for your breed.
- **Check the Neighborhood:** Check the neighborhood where the pet was lost. Walk slowly calling the pet's name. As you walk, jiggle a box of dry food or treats. Try leaving an article of your clothing in the area and check back at night.
- **Expand Your Search:** Unneutered males will often travel farther than neutered ones. Expand your search accordingly.
- **When You Find Your Pet:** Check your pet for illness or injuries. Injured pets may bite, so be careful.
- **Don't Give Up Hope:** If you don't find your pet immediately, don't lose hope. It is not uncommon for people to find their pets weeks or even months later.