

## CHECKLIST – COMPANION ANIMALS

### Preparing for a Disaster - Canada

Plan ahead for a disaster so that there is no panic at the time you must be efficient. Remember that at this time, most human emergency shelters will not accept pets, excluding registered service animals.

#### To Buy:

- Solid Sided Pet Carrier – For Transport
- Collapsible Wire pet Crate – For Living

#### To Do:

- Emergency Plan
- Appoint a “responsible person” (not living in house)
- Get pet accustomed to carrier
- Get pet accustomed to car trips
- Keep your pets’ vaccinations up to date
- Pet ID
- Disaster Kit

### Disaster Kit

This should be assembled long before a disaster in a durable, waterproof, easy to move container. They should be stored in an easy to access location away from extreme temperatures.

- Food and water for at least 2 weeks
- Food and water bowls
- Manual can opener
- Plastic lid
- Spoon
- Medications for at least 2 weeks
- Animal 1<sup>st</sup> aid kit and 1<sup>st</sup> aid book
- Collar
- Leash
- Harness (If necessary)
- Muzzles (If necessary)
- Cat litter
- Litter box
- Current Pet information in a sealable waterproof bag:
  - Name, breed, sex of animal
  - Your name, address, phone #
  - Copy of Pet Licence
  - Microchip number (if applicable)
  - Copy vaccination records
  - Copy of rabies certificate
  - Records of medical conditions
  - Allergies
  - Feeding schedules
  - Administration procedures of drugs
  - Specific behavioural problems
  - Name, address, phone # of veterinarian
  - Current photos
- Bedding (Towels, Blankets)
- Toys, chew toys, treats
- Cleaning supplies
- Emergency contact lists (hotels/motels, family/friends, boarding facilities, animal shelters, emergency vets, shelters for lost animals)

#### For You:

- Map of local area including evacuation routes
- Batteries / Solar Powered Energy Supply
- Flashlight
- Radio
- Cell phone and charger

## Upon Warning of a Disaster

*At the first warning of disaster, begin evacuation procedures to ensure that you and your pets get out safely and that there are spaces available in your prearranged evacuation locations. If you wait until the last moment, human emergency rescue workers in Canada may not allow your pets to come with you.*

1.  Bring all animals indoors
  2.  Check collars and IDs to ensure they are securely fastened
  3.  Attach temporary ID
  4.  Check completeness of Disaster kit
  5.  Call evacuation location
  6.  Place larger animal carriers in vehicle
  7.  Place smaller animals in carriers
  8.  Attach leashes to larger animals when taking them outside
  9.  Load into vehicle\*:
    - a.  Disaster kit
    - b.  Smaller animals already in carriers
    - c.  Larger animals into carriers
- \* Ensure that your vehicle is temperature regulated

## During a Disaster/Evacuation

*It is very important to take your animals with you when evacuating an area. A disaster that is hazardous to us is also hazardous to our pets. Leaving a pet behind in a disaster to fend for themselves may result in your pet becoming injured, lost or worse. Even if you believe you will only be away for a short period of time, take your animals with you as that short period of time can easily be extended.*

### If you are evacuating the area

1.  Keep animals leashed or in carrier at all times
2.  Never leave your animal unattended
3.  Follow car travel tips

### If you are staying in the disaster location

1.  Find a safe area for you and your pets
2.  Keep dogs on leashes and cats in carriers
3.  Bring Disaster kit with you to the safe area
4.  Listen to the radio for information

### If you are not home

1.  Contact your “responsible person”
2.  Meet at predetermined location and retrieve your pets

## After returning from an Evacuation

1.  Keep pets in carriers or on leashes
2.  Survey your home and surrounding area
3.  Release your pet indoors \*keep an eye on their behaviour and well-being\*
4.  Keep your pet fenced in or leashed when outside

### If you lose your animal

1.  Immediately report pet to animal shelters
2.  Return to neighbourhood when area is safe
3.  Contact animal shelters and/or emergency hotlines
4.  Post lost animal flyers
5.  Contact service workers in your area

### If you find a lost animal

1.  Do not allow the animal near your pets
2.  Contact animal shelter and/or emergency hotlines
3.  Attempt to contain the animal without risk to yourself or others

### Supplement for Reptiles

1.  Transport in small carriers or cloth sacks
2.  Mark with permanent marker
3.  Supplements to Disaster Kit
  - a.  Arrange for transporting your reptiles food (live food, fresh food, pellet diet)
  - b.  Dietary Supplements
  - c.  Water Bowl
  - d.  Heat source
  - e.  Spray bottle
  - f.  Towel or blanket
4.  Isolate carrier

### Supplement for Birds

1.  Keep Bird in small carrier
2.  Can use leg bands for ID
3.  Supplements to Disaster Kit
  - a.  Fresh food and water
  - b.  Dietary Supplements
  - c.  Perch
  - d.  Heat source
  - e.  Spray bottle
  - f.  Newspaper
  - g.  Towel or blanket
4.  Give fresh fruits and vegetables during transport
5.  Isolate carrier
6.  Keep bird confined in unfamiliar surroundings

### Supplement for other small animals (ie: hamsters, gerbils, ferrets, mice, rats, rabbits, guinea pigs, etc.)

1.  Keep animal in small carrier
2.  Supplements to Disaster Kit
  - a.  Dietary Supplements
  - b.  Bedding
  - c.  Exercise Equipment
  - d.  Towel or blanket
3.  Isolate carrier

## COMPANION ANIMALS - DETAILED INFORMATION

### **Preparing for a Disaster**

#### **To Buy:**

1. Solid Sided Pet Carrier
  - This carrier is used for transportation
  - Each pet must have their own solid sided carrier
    - Pets that are stressed may turn aggressive towards other pets in your home and should be kept separated from each other.
  - The solid sides will protect the animal from flying debris and will provide a layer of protection if your vehicle rolls
  - Sizing: This carrier should only provide enough space for your animal to turn around and lie down
  - Label each carrier with your pets' information and your updated contact information
  - Keep the crate assembled and ready for use at all times
  - Get your pet accustomed to their carriers prior to a disaster situation
    - Otherwise, this will add stress for the animal
    - To get them accustomed to the carrier:
      - It can be used as sleeping quarters for the animal on a regular basis
      - Feed the animal a few meals inside the carrier several times a year
      - Line the crate with familiar blankets, toys and/or chew toys to keep the animal comfortable while in the crate
      - This will help the animal associate positive feelings with the crate and view it as a safe place to be
  - Organize animals in a reasonable manner in your vehicle – ie: if there is not enough space in the car to have all your animals in crates, place the cats in crates and let the dogs be free in the back of the car
2. Wire Pet Crate
  - This crate is used for living in
  - Each pet must have their own crate
    - Pets that are stressed may turn aggressive towards other pets in your home and should be kept separated from each other.
  - Collapsible wire crates are ideal for easy storage and transportation
  - Assemble the wire crate regularly to ensure you know how it works
  - A good quality crate is easy to set up (with a single pull) and can last a very long time
    - Collapsible crates that require pins are difficult to put up and take down
  - Sizing:
    - There should be enough room for the animal to live in the crate for extended periods of time
    - For a dog: they should be able to stand, turn around, lie down and stretch out comfortably. There should also be room for two non spill bowls
    - For a cat: They should be large enough allow your cat to stand, lie down and stretch out comfortably. They should also be able to hold a small litter pan that the cat can stand in.
  - Label each crate with your pets' information and your updated contact information
  - This crate should be placed in an easily accessible location such as in the car or garage

#### **To Do:**

1. Emergency Plan
  - Involve the entire family in making an **emergency plan** that includes your animals. Give each family member the responsibility of **one** animal to avoid confusion
2. "Responsible Person"

- Pick someone to **assume responsibility** for your pet if you are not home during a disaster.
  - Ask someone who:
    - Lives close to your home
    - Is usually home when you are not
    - Is willing to look after your pets
    - Is familiar with your pets
  - They should have a key to your home
  - This person should know where your animals are most likely to be when they enter the house and where their favourite hiding spots are
  - They should know where your disaster kit is located and bring it with them
  - You should arrange two predetermined meeting spots outside of your local area where you can obtain your pets and seek emergency shelter
3. Get your pet accustomed to their **carrier**
    - It can be used as sleeping quarters for the animal on a regular basis
    - Feed the animal a few meals inside the carrier several times a year
    - Line the crate with familiar blankets, toys and/or chew toys to keep the animal comfortable while in the crate
    - This will help the animal associate positive feelings with the crate and view it as a safe place to be
  4. Get your animal accustomed to **car trips**
    - Feed the animal while in a non moving car with the engine off
    - Initially take short car trips with no destination except to come home
    - Eventually, you will be able to take longer car rides without the animal becoming agitated
  5. Ensure your pet has up to date vaccinations
    - Some shelters or boarding facilities will not allow pets without current vaccinations
  6. Pet ID
    - Have proper identification attached to your animal
    - Collar Tag, Neck band, Waterproof container attached to collar
      - Information needs to be updated regularly
      - These IDs should contain:
        - Pet's name
        - Your name
        - Home telephone number
        - Cellular number
        - Emergency contact number of someone outside your immediate area
    - Microchip
      - This is the best way to identify your animal, but should be in addition to a collar tag
      - Information should be updated regularly
    - Tattoo
  7. Disaster Kit

## **Disaster Kit**

### **1. Food and water**

- Enough food and water for at least 2 weeks
- Continue regular diet
- Place food in airtight, waterproof containers
- Keep water in a plastic container out of direct sunlight in a cool, dry place
  - Average sized dogs need approximately 4 L of water per day
  - Average sized cats need approximately 1 L of water per day
- Replace food and water every 2 months to avoid spoilage
- Feeding a canned or moist food diet during a disaster can reduce the amount of water needed by the animal
  - If possible when feeding a canned food diet, buy single serving cans (as refrigeration may not be available) with pop top lids (so you do not need can openers)

### **6. Medications**

- Enough for at least 2 weeks
- Place in an airtight, waterproof container
- Heartworm, flea and tick prevention if applicable to time of year and area
- Keep a record of dosage and administration schedule
- Keep storage requirements of some medications in mind
- Replace often as many medications, heartworm, flea and tick preventions expire

### **8 - 11. Collars, Leashes, Harnesses, Muzzles**

- A pet may act differently under the stress of a disaster situation. You must have the appropriate equipment for you or others to properly handle your pet so that they do not hurt themselves or others.
- Pets may have the tendency to run away when in a strange place. This may be true even with the most reliable pets. Because of this, all animals should be secured with a leash or in a carrier at all times when being evacuated from a disaster situation.
- If a cat needs to be taken out of their carriers, they need to have secure harnesses and leashes attached to them at all times
- Extra leashes, collars and harnesses should be kept in your kit and/or in your car

### **12 - 13. Cat litter, litter box**

- Enough litter to last at least 2 weeks
- Disposable litter pans or flat Tupperware may be useful as litter boxes
- Litter can also be used for traction under the wheels of your car or to soak up oil spills from your car
- This can be left permanently in a car and/or in your kit.

### **14. Pet information**

- m. Current photos
  - These should show any distinguishing features and some should include you to make reclaiming your pet easier if they become lost
  - Photos should also be kept in your wallet and given to people outside your immediate area

### **15. Bedding - towels and blankets**

- Towels and blankets can be used in the carrier as bedding for the animal
- An extra supply can also be used as warmth and bedding for us

### **16. Toys, chew toys and treats (if space allows)**

- Treats, familiar toys and items to chew can be very calming to animals in stressful situations



## 17. Cleaning supplies

- Plastic bags to pick up after your pet
- Litter scoops
- Paper towels
- Newspapers
- Dish soap (to clean bowls and litter boxes)
- Garbage bags

## 18. Emergency Contact Lists

- Prearrange **emergency facilities** outside your area that can accommodate you and/or your pets
  - Have multiple possible locations to go to
    - ensure that they are in varying distances and directions from your house in case a large area is affected by the disaster
  - Make list of hotels and motels that allow pets outside your immediate area
    - Also inquire with other hotels if they would allow pets in emergency situations
    - Include addresses and 24 hour phone numbers
  - Speak with friends or family members outside your area about housing some or all of your pets and/or you in the event of an evacuation
    - Ensure that they know any medical or behavioural issues of your animals
  - Contact animal shelters about their boarding policies during disaster scenarios
  - Contact veterinary and boarding facilities outside your area to see if they will board your pet on short term notice
    - Include addresses and 24 hour phone numbers
- Make a list of **emergency veterinary facilities** outside your immediate area in case your animal needs emergency care
- Prepare multiple **evacuation routes** in case some roads are closed.
- Find out where **lost animals** are placed in the event of a disaster
  - call local animal shelters for information

## 19. Map of local area including evacuation routes

- Prepare multiple **evacuation routes** in case some roads are closed.

## Upon Warning of a Disaster

1. Bring all animals **indoors** so that you do not have to search for them
2. Check that all **collars and identifications** are securely fastened on the animal
3. Attach identification of the **emergency shelter** to the animals' collars
4. Ensure **disaster kit** is fully equipped and ready for quick departure
5. Call **evacuation location** to ensure spaces are available for your pet and/or you
6. Place the larger animals' solid sided transport **carriers** in your vehicle
7. Secure smaller animals in individual travel **carriers**
8. Attach **leashes** to larger animals when taking them outside and keep them near you

9. **Load:** Disaster Kit  
Smaller animals already in carriers  
Place larger animals in carriers already in your vehicle
- When loading animals, try to keep prey species away from predator species
  - If not possible to keep them separated, cover cages and place prey species higher up than predator species (ie: keep rats, rabbits, geckos, lizards, etc. covered and on a higher plain than dogs and cats)

\*Ensure that the vehicle is **temperature regulated**

- If it is cold outside, turn heat on in car before loading animals
- If it is hot outside, turn air conditioning on in car before loading animals
- **\*\*Do not load animals into a hot car\*\***

### **During a Disaster/Evacuation**

#### **If you are evacuating the area**

1. Animals should be **leashed** at all times when not in your house or their carrier  
Keep **cats in carriers** or on **harnesses** at all times as they can easily escape
2. Never leave your animal **unattended** unless they are in their carrier
3. During **car travel**: Keep feeding to a minimum  
Take frequent pit stops for bathroom breaks and exercise  
Provide fresh water or ice cubes during pit stops

#### **If you are staying in the disaster location**

1. Find a **safe area** of your home where you will be able to avoid danger and where you and your pets can stay together
2. Keep **cats in their carriers and dogs on leashes** at all times while in your safe location
  - If animals are not in your control it may be difficult to quickly gather them in the event you must evacuate the area
3. Bring your **disaster kit** into the safe area with you
4. Listen to the **radio** and do not come out of your safe area until officials deem the area secure

#### **If you are not home**

1. Keep in close **contact** with the person you designated to retrieve your pets
2. Meet at your predetermined **meeting spot** and take your pets to an emergency shelter

### **After returning from an Evacuation**

1. Keep pets in **carriers** or **on leashes**
  - Keep them contained until you have had a chance to locate damage
2. **Survey** your home
  - Look for any damaged areas where your animals can get hurt or escape**Survey** the area around your home
  - Look for any debris or hazardous materials that may harm your pet



3. Initially, only release your pets **indoors**
  - Other wildlife or pets may have been displaced during the disaster and could be dangerous
5. When pets are initially allowed outside, ensure that they are **fenced in** or **leashed**
  - Their once familiar surrounds may have changed during the disaster and may now contain unfamiliar sights and smells that may cause your pet to become disoriented or lost.

### **If you lose your animal**

1. **Report** your missing pet to the nearest animal shelter / animal control offices as soon as possible and find out where lost animals are housed in the area
2. **Return to your neighbourhood** when it is safe to look for your pet
3. Contact your nearest **animal shelters** and/or emergency hotlines
  - Bring a picture of your pet with you to animal shelters
4. Post and hand out **lost animal flyers** which include your pets' picture, name, your name and phone number
5. **Contact** neighbours, mail carriers, police, fire fighters and other service workers to look for your pet

### **If you find a lost animal**

1. Do not allow the lost animal near your pets
2. Immediately contact your nearest **animal shelter** as well as **emergency animal shelters**
  - If available, contact emergency lost pet **hotlines**
  - be prepared to give a full description of the animal (breed, sex, colour, distinguishing features)
3. If possible, attempt to **confine** the animal without handling them and without risk to you or others
  - Provide the animal with a bowl of water or food in a cage
  - As soon as the animal enters the cage, close the door
  - Wait for officials to pick up the animal or take the animal to the nearest animal shelter
  - **WARNING:** Stressed, injured or sick animals can be unpredictable and should only be handled by experienced individuals

### **Supplement for Reptiles**

1. Can be transported in **small carriers** or **cloth sacks**
  - If using a cloth sack for transportation, ensure you have a secure carrier at the emergency facility to transfer them to
2. Reptiles can be marked with a **permanent marker** for identification (including other methods listed)
3. Also include in your Disaster kit:
  1. **Food Source**
    - Some reptiles have **live food** sources
      - ensure that you have an excess supply of food at all times
      - bring proper equipment to keep live food healthy and secure until your reptile requires feeding
    - Some reptiles require **fresh fruits** and **vegetables**

- Keep frozen or canned fruits and vegetables or baby jars of fruits and vegetables in supply for emergencies
  - Test your pet with the different types of food to ensure they will accept it prior to a disaster
  - Some reptiles eat a **pelleted diet**
    - Enough food for at least 2 weeks
    - Store in an air-tight waterproof container
    - Replace every 2 months to avoid spoilage
2. **Dietary supplements**
  3. **Water bowl**
    - Ensure this is large enough for full body submersion
  4. **Heat source**
    - ie: heating pad, or other heat source that is battery operated, solar powered, or works off the car battery
  5. **Spray bottle**
    - If reptile needs to be moist or if they drink water droplets off of leaves or the sides of their tank
  6. **Towel or blanket**
    - To cover the animals' carrier

#### 4. At the **emergency facility**:

- Keep the carrier away from loud noises, bright lights or temperatures too extreme for the animal
- Covering the carrier with a towel or blanket will reduce stress for the animal

### **Supplement for Birds**

1. Keep the bird in a **small carrier**, in which the bird cannot escape
2. Birds can have **leg bands** for identification (including other methods listed)
3. Also include in your Disaster kit:
  1. Provide **fresh food** and **water** daily
  2. **Dietary supplements**
  3. **Perch** inside the carrier
  4. **Heating source** - ie: hot water bottle, or other heat source in case of cold weather
  5. **Spray bottle** - spray the birds feathers when it needs to be cooled in hot weather
  6. **Newspaper** (or another material) - to line the bottom of the cage
  7. **Towel or blanket** - to cover the animals' carrier
4. During **transportation**
  - give the bird a few slices of **fresh fruit** and **vegetables** that have a high water content as a source of water
5. At the **emergency facility**:
  - Keep the carrier away from loud noises, bright lights or temperatures too extreme for the bird
  - Covering the carrier with a towel or blanket will reduce stress for the bird
6. Do not let your bird out of the cage in **unfamiliar surroundings**
  - They will readily fly away and may be difficult to capture

**Supplement for other small animals** (ie: hamsters, gerbils, ferrets, mice, rats, rabbits, guinea pigs, etc.)

1. Keep the animal in a **small carrier**, in which it cannot escape

2. Also include in your Disaster kit:

1. **Dietary supplements**
2. **Bedding** materials
3. **Exercise equipment**
4. **Towel or blanket** - to cover the animals' carrier

3. At the **emergency facility**:

- Keep the carrier away from loud noises, bright lights or temperatures too extreme for the animal
- Covering the carrier with a towel or blanket will reduce stress for the bird

