



READY TO RESPOND

NEWSLETTER



CITY OF CHARLESTON

JUNE 2016

CHARLESTON FIRE DEPT

Pet Preparedness Tips

Find important tips on how you can prepare your pet for a disaster

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Pet Preparedness Resources

List of agencies with more information to help plan for your pet's needs.

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Pet Preparedness

Disasters can come in many forms, from manmade to natural. Many of us have made emergency plans for our families should we encounter a disaster, but many forget to include the rest of the family in the planning process, our pet(s). Pets are important members of our family and often get overlooked when planning for emergencies. For the safety of the pet(s), family members and first responder, pets should be included in any disaster planning for your family. Having a plan in place for your pets prior to a disaster will help ensure their survival.

PREPAREDNESS TIPS FOR PET OWNERS (Tips by RedRover.com)

- **Microchip your pets**
Microchip identification is one of the best ways to ensure that you and your pet are reunited if you are separated. Be sure to keep the microchip registration up-to-date, and include at least one emergency number of a friend or relative who resides out of your immediate area
- **Keep collar and tag on all cats and dogs**
Keep several current phone numbers on your animal's identification tag. Identification on indoor-only cats is especially important. If your home is damaged during a disaster, they could easily escape.
- **Plan a pet-friendly place to stay**
Search in advance for out-of-area pet-friendly hotels or boarding facilities, or make a housing exchange agreement with an out-of-area friend or relative. **Never leave your pet behind if you evacuate!**



Links to Additional Resource Agencies

- ASPCA.org
- RedRover.org
- Ready.gov
- humanesociety.org
- redcross.org
- cdc.gov
- fema.gov
- Illinois.gov/iema
- americanhumane.org



PREPAREDNESS TIPS FOR OWNERS CONT.

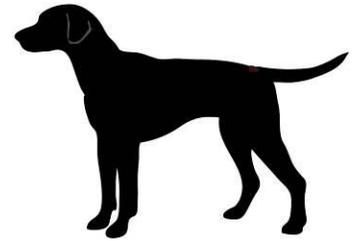
(Tips by RedRover.com)

➤ **Use the buddy system**

Exchange pet information, evacuation plans and house keys with a few trusted neighbors or nearby friends. If you're caught outside evacuation lines when an evacuation order is issued, your neighbors or friends can evacuate your pets for you.

➤ **Prepare an emergency kit for each animal**

Stock up on the items you may need during a disaster now so you do not get caught unprepared. Below are basic items you should include in your pets' disaster kits. Store your disaster kit supplies in an easy-to-grab container.



Items for Pet Disaster Kit

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● One week supply of food and water● Medications● Health records including vaccinations● Photographs of you and your pet | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Pet first aid kit● Carrier and leash for each pet● Cat litter and box● Toys |
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Family Preparedness Plans Must Include Pets

IEMA, local emergency management agencies to focus on pet preparedness throughout June

SPRINGFIELD – According to a recent survey by the American Pet Products Association, 65 percent of U.S. households include at least one pet. If your family includes a dog, cat, hamster or other furry, feathered or scaly friends, don't forget to include their unique needs in your home emergency plans.

Throughout the month of June, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) and local emergency management agencies will highlight the importance of emergency preparedness for pets.

"Pets are beloved members of many families these days," said IEMA Director James K. Joseph. "That's why it's so important to include your pet's needs when developing your family emergency plan and stocking your emergency supply kit."

Joseph said home emergency supply kits for people should include a three-day supply of such items as food, water, first aid kit, weather alert radio, flashlights, spare batteries and other items. Pet owners should also have a pet preparedness kit stocked with items such as:

- At least a three-day supply of food and water
- Extra supplies of pet medicines
- Copies of pet registration, vaccinations and other important documents
- Photo of your pet in case you are separated during an emergency
- Collar with ID tag, harness or leash
- Crate or other pet carrier in case of evacuation
- Pet litter and box, newspapers, paper towels, plastic trash bags and household chlorine bleach for sanitation
- Toys, treats or other familiar items to reduce your pet's stress during the emergency

A disaster may require you to evacuate your home, sometimes with little notice. It's important to take pets with you, as an evacuation could last several days, even weeks, and your pets likely cannot survive without care. Plan now for places you and your pets can stay following an evacuation, as many public shelters do not allow animals inside.

It's also important to have a back-up emergency plan in case you can't care for or evacuate your animals yourself. Talk to neighbors, friends and family to make sure someone is available to care for or evacuate your pets if you are unable to do so.

Additional pet preparedness and general emergency preparedness information is available on the Ready Illinois website at www.Ready.Illinois.gov, the Ready Illinois Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ReadyIllinois and on Twitter at [Twitter.com/ReadyIllinois](https://twitter.com/ReadyIllinois).