

Are you ready?

The best protection in any emergency is knowing what to do.



Emergency Preparedness
Protection civile
緊急事故の準備
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Take Care of Every Member of your Family. Have a Plan for your Pets!

Pet Preparedness Checklists & Tips

Pets are important members of our family. Just as an emergency preparedness kit can help keep you and your family safe, a pet emergency preparedness kit, can help ensure the safety of your pets. It is best to keep everything stored in sturdy containers such as a duffel bag, or covered trash containers that can be accessed and carried easily.

Your pet emergency preparedness kit should contain:

- A blanket
- Pet beds and toys, if you can easily take them, to reduce stress.
- A secure carrying cage to transport your pet. Clearly label the cage with your name and contact information, your veterinarian's name and contact information, and any special requirements your pet may have. It's also a good idea to include the phone number of a friend or relative outside your immediate area in case you are out of your home for an extended period and become separated from your pet.
- Medications your pet may be taking and related medical records, including a record of vaccinations.
- Sufficient food and clean water for at least 72 hours in watertight containers.
- Information on your pet including feeding schedules, or behavioural issues in case they are placed in foster care or you need to leave them with a friend or relative.
- Manual can opener, spill-proof food dishes, or other feeding supplies you may require.
- Newspaper, cat litter, wood chips or any other extra supplies for sanitary reasons.
- Up-to-date identification tags, which should be securely fastened to your pet's collar.
- Current photos and descriptions of your pets. This helps others identify them in case you and your pets are separated, and to prove that they are yours.
- A leash, harness, or muzzle as required by your pet.

Things to consider ahead of time:

- **Find a safe place to evacuate to.** Emergency Reception and Lodging Centres may not be able to accept pets (with the exception of service animals) for health and safety reasons, so it is important that you make alternate arrangements. Make a list of animal-friendly places and keep it handy. This could include hotels, motels, friends, relatives, or boarding facilities that might be able to shelter animals in emergencies; include 24-hour telephone numbers.

PETS

- **Make arrangements well in advance for a trusted neighbour to take your pets and meet you at a specified location in case you aren't home.** Be sure the person is comfortable with your pets, knows where your animals are likely to be, knows where your disaster supplies are kept, and has a key to your home. This could also be a professional service provider such as your a dog walker.

During an emergency:

- **Bring pets into the house and confine them so you can leave with them quickly if necessary.** Warning of emergencies may come several hours or minutes in advance so it is important that you are ready to go.
- **Take your pet with you if possible.** Often you cannot be sure how long you may be away from your home so it is important that you take your pet with you so that they are not exposed to harm.
- **If you have to leave your pet behind** the following actions may increase your pet's chances for survival:
 - o Ensure you post a highly visible sign in your window to let rescue workers know how many pets were left behind and what type.
 - o Leave plenty of water in a large open container, which cannot be tipped over.
 - o Leave plenty of dry food in timed feeders so your pet does not eat all their food in one day.
 - o Don't cage your pet or tie them up, as their chances for survival are greater if they can escape easily.
 - o Ensure that any loose pets are wearing a collar with proper identification and contact information.

Following a disaster:

If you become separated from your pet during a disaster the following tips may assist you in finding them more quickly.

- **Report your pet missing with the nearest animal shelter.** Provide a recent photo and any distinctive markings, which may help identify your pet. Make sure to follow-up with them every few days as they may continue to receive new animals frequently.
- **Contact your veterinarian, neighbours, and emergency contacts listed on your pet's collar or cage.** They may have been contacted about your pet, or be caring for them.
- **Once you are able to safely return to your neighbourhood search the area and if possible post signs with photos of your pet and contact information.**
- **Get informed.** The media often provides valuable information on what the city is doing and key contact information.

Once you return home with your pet:

- **Don't allow your pets to roam loose.** Familiar landmarks and smells might be gone, and your pet will probably be disoriented. Pets can easily get lost in such situations, so ensure they are leashed if they are outside the house. For a few days, keep dogs on leashes and keep cats in carriers inside the house. If your house is damaged, they could escape and become lost.
- **Be patient with your pets after a disaster.** Your pet has also experienced a traumatic event. Try to get them back into their normal routines as soon as possible, but be ready for behavioural problems that may result from the stress of the situation. If behavioural problems persist, or if your pet seems to be having any health problems, talk to your veterinarian.

To find out more about what the City is doing and what you can do to be prepared, visit ottawa.ca or call 3-1-1. The City's web site is your best source of complete emergency preparedness information for your pets.