



AVMA Disaster Preparedness

ED. NOTE: Does this article look familiar? It should - see the Jan/Feb 2004 issue of the ISHC NEWS. Learn from this most recent disaster. If YOU are not prepared to evacuate YOUR animals at a moment's notice, YOU need to read this again and ACT.

Nature has its fury days: tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, fires, blizzards, and more. Each year, devastating disasters can ravage YOUR nation. No one is exempt from the possibility of being affected personally. YOU need to prepare for YOURSELF and for YOUR animals, to avoid having to leave your animals stranded in the event of a disaster or evacuation. Visit www.avma.org or your country's equivalent, for the most current information and for links to additional Web sites.

Do Not Wait Until It Is Too Late

Countless times people have been told to leave their homes for a "short time," - DON'T BELIEVE THEM! - only to find that they cannot return for days or weeks. Even disasters like gas leaks and minor flooding can keep you from tending to your animals for extended periods of time. To prevent situations such as these, take your animals with you. It is best to be overly cautious during a disaster warning. Preparing ahead of time and acting quickly is the best way to keep you and your family, including your animals, out of danger.

* **Familiarize yourself with each type of disaster that your area could be affected by, including a hazardous materials spill.**

* Assemble an animal evacuation kit (suggestions follow, but contents need to be tailored to your specific needs).

* Develop an evacuation plan for all of your animals.

* Keep written directions to your home near your telephone. This will help you tell emergency responders how to get to your home if you are in need of rescue, or if a person unfamiliar

with your area is the only one in your home during a disaster.

* Identify alternate sources of food and water. Local food and water sources may be disrupted or contaminated for extended periods of time following a disaster.

* Keep all vehicles well maintained and full of gas.

* Keep emergency cash on hand.

In Case You Are Not At Home

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. 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, catchnets, and animal restraints where rescue personnel can find them. Keep in mind that animals DO become fractious 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. It is suggested that you sign a letter that releases your neighbor from responsibility should one of your animals become injured and, sign a veterinary medical treatment authorization form.

Identification

Having identification on your animals, including rabies and license tags, if applicable, will 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 that you will be in contact with during or soon after the disaster/evacuation. If possible, include your veterinarian's name, location, and phone number. Forms of identification are listed below.

Small Animal

* collar tag (a piece of tape applied to the back of the collar tag can provide evacuation site information)

* microchip

* tattoo

* temporary neckband

Small Animals:

Have a leash, collar, and/or harness for each pet. Have a collapsible cage or airline approved carrier for each pet, including proper bedding, for transportation or housing purposes. 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 will reinforce positive feelings associated with the animal carrier.

For housing purposes, 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 nonspill 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.

Owning enough carriers to accommodate your pets facilitates a speedy evacuation and may mean the difference between the life and death of your pet.

Locate and prearrange an evacuation site for your family and animals outside your immediate area. Ideally, this could be a friend/relative, a pet-friendly hotel or shelter that is willing to let your family and animals stay in the event of a disaster. However, other

possible animal housing options include veterinary hospitals, boarding kennels, and animal shelters.

Veterinary Records

Make photocopies of important veterinary documents to store in the evacuation kit.

Vaccination records

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

Medical history

- * Important test results (Felv/FIV, Heartworm, Coggins, TB, other infectious diseases)
- * Medical conditions

Proof of Ownership

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 laminated "Lost Pet" signs with your animal's photo attached, your name, and your contact information to use in case your animal is lost.

List of

Emergency Contacts

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.

- * Numbers where you may be reached (pager, cell phone, work phone)
- * Your prearranged evacuation site
- * Local contact person in case of emergency when you are not available
- * Out-of-state contact in case the disaster is far reaching in your locale
- * Your veterinarian

- * 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
- * United States Department of Agriculture Missing Pet Network (www.missingpet.net)

Evacuation Essentials

The following lists will help you prepare for your animal(s) in the event of a disaster. The evacuation kit should be assembled in an easy-to-carry, waterproof container. It should be stored in an easily accessible location away from areas with temperature extremes. Replace the food, water, and medications as needed to maintain their quality and freshness and in accordance with the expiration dates. Indicate, if needed, medications that are stored elsewhere due to temperature requirements such as refrigeration.

Consult, if necessary, for advice on making an animal evacuation kit and first aid kit that is appropriate for your individual animals. It is important that you become familiar with the items in your kit and their uses. Learn animal emergency first aid procedures and how to

administer medications.

Small Animal Evacuation Kit

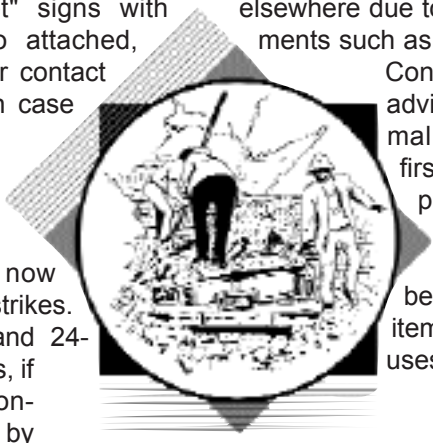
- * 2-week supply of food (dry & canned)
- * 2-week supply of water in plastic gallon jugs
- * Batteries (flashlight, radio)
- * Cage/carrier (for each animal, labeled with your contact information)
- * Can opener (manual)
- * Cat/wildlife gloves
- * Copies of veterinary records and proof of ownership
- * Emergency contact list
- * Familiar items to make pets feel comfortable (favorite toys, treats, blankets)

- * First aid kit (see next page)
- * Flashlight
- * Instructions
- * Diet: Record the diet for each individual animal, including what not to feed in case of allergies.
- * Medications: List each animal separately, including dose and frequency for each medication. Provide veterinary and pharmacy contact information for refills.
- * Leash, collar, harness (for each animal)
- * Litter, litter pan, litter scoop
- * Maps of local area and alternate evacuation routes (in case of road closures)
- * Muzzles (dog or cat)
- * Newspaper (bedding, litter)
- * Nonspill food and water dishes
- * Paper towels
- * Radio (solar and battery operated)
- * Spoon (canned food)
- * Stakes and tie-outs
- * Trash bags

Small Animal First Aid Kit

The items below serve as an example of what may be included in a small animal first aid kit.

- * Activated charcoal (liquid)
- * Antidiarrheal liquid or tablets
- * Antibiotic ointment (wounds)
- * Antibiotic eye ointment
- * Bandage scissors
- * Bandage tape
- * Betadine or Nolvasan (scrub/solution)
- * Cotton bandage rolls
- * Cotton-tipped swabs
- * Elastic bandage rolls
- * Eye rinse (sterile)
- * Flea & tick prevention and treatment
- * Gauze pads and rolls
- * Hydrogen peroxide
- * Ice cream sticks (which may be used as splints)
- * Isopropyl alcohol/alcohol prep pads
- * Latex gloves or non-allergenic gloves
- * Liquid dish detergent (mild wound and body cleanser)
- * Measuring spoons
- * Medications and preventatives such as heartworm prevention (clearly-labeled instructions)
- * Nonadherent bandage pads
- * Saline solution (for rinsing wounds)
- * Sterile lubricant (waterbased)
- * Styptic powder (clotting agent)
- * Syringe or eyedropper



- * Thermometer (digital)
- * Tourniquet
- * Towel and washcloth
- * Tweezers

Evacuating Other Types of Pets

Identification, medical records, and proof of ownership are equally as important for other kinds of pets as for the aforementioned animals. Transportation may require additional attention and care in order to decrease chances of stress-induced illness and death. It is important to maintain the best possible hygiene in order to decrease disease transmission.

An Evacuation Order Has Been Issued...Now What Do You Do?

Evacuate your family, including your animals, as early as possible. By leaving early, you will decrease the chance of becoming victims of the disaster.

1. Bring your dogs, cats, and other small animals indoors.
2. Make sure all animals have collars and some form of identification securely fastened.
3. Place all small pets, including cats and small dogs, inside individual transportable carriers. When stressed, animals that normally get along may become aggressive.
4. Secure leashes on all dogs.

5. Load your larger animal cages/carriers into your vehicle. These will serve as temporary housing for your animals if needed.

6. Load the animal evacuation kit and supplies into your vehicle.

7. Call your prearranged animal evacuation site to confirm space.

8. Evacuate with your animals-ASAP!

9. If time permits, secure or remove all outdoor objects that may turn into dangerous flying debris.

After the Disaster

* Survey the area inside and outside your home to identify sharp objects, dangerous materials, dangerous wildlife, contaminated water, downed power lines, or other hazards.

* Familiar scents and landmarks may have changed, and this can confuse your animals.

* Release cats, dogs, and other small animals indoors only. They could encounter dangerous wildlife and debris if they are allowed outside unsupervised and unrestrained.

* Reintroduce food in small servings, gradually working up to full portions if animals have been without food for a prolonged period of time.

* Allow uninterrupted rest/sleep for all animals to recover from the trauma and stress.

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* Physically check animal control and animal shelters DAILY for lost animals.

* Post lost animal notices and notify local veterinarians and your neighbors of any lost animals (visit www.missingpet.net for lost and found animals).

Member Notes

To All Members: Specs for the magazine! All magazine material should be sent to the appropriate section editor (see website); advertising to Michelle Menger at Michelle.W-MENGER@wanadoo.fr (see website for advertising rates. We still need an editor for the Veterinary section - let us hear from you!

Send pictures! - black/white or color in TIFF or JPEG format. Send to Diane Willet at snaosibe@hotmail.com.

Deadlines: Be ready with your advertising for the Jul/Aug issue - Deadline is **July 20, 2006**. Please send articles far ahead of schedule for good editing! Deadline is always the 20th of the month prior to publication-i.e. July 20 for July/August. Our magazine gets more readers worldwide than any other Siberian magazine - take advantage of that!