

Pet Preparedness Toolkit

Ahead of June’s National Pet Preparedness Month, let’s ensure the safety and well-being of our beloved pets. That’s why this toolkit provides essential information and resources to help pet owners prepare for emergencies and navigate different types of hazardous situations. From crafting a comprehensive emergency plan to assembling a pet emergency kit, this guide equips you and your stakeholders with the knowledge and simple steps necessary to protect the animals in your care. Please share our social media messages far and wide to further support our communities pet preparedness efforts. Together, we can make a difference for our furry (or feathered, or scaly...) friends!

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Key Messages

- Know your hazards. Plan for the hazards that can affect your area and think about how these hazards will impact your pets.
- Have an emergency plan and consider your pets if you need to evacuate. Most shelters do not accept pets, so think ahead as to what you would do in the event of a disaster.
- Make your pet an emergency kit. Fill a bag with essential supplies for your pet in case you need to evacuate with your pet.

Talking Points

Know Your Hazards

Hazards could include, but are not limited to, the following:



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- **Flooding**
 - Think through where you'll go in the event of a flood, and where your pet would go. Can your pet swim if water rises rapidly?
- **Severe weather, thunderstorms**
 - Could your pet be impacted by severe weather and a loss of power?
 - Excessive periods of heat or cold can also affect your pet, so make sure to limit their time outside if the temperatures are extreme.
- **Excessive heat or cold**
 - Excessive periods of heat or cold can also affect your pet, so make sure to limit their time outside if the temperatures are extreme.
 - Never leave your pet unattended in a locked car.
- **House/Barn Fires**
 - Alert first responders that you have a pet in the home if your pet has not left the home.
 - Tip: Many sites offer decals for your doors and windows which you can use to indicate that a pet lives in the residence. Here's a link to a free one, as an example: <https://secure.aspca.org/take-action/order-your-pet-safety-pack>.
 - Barns often contain flammable materials such as dry hay, bedding, and wood so make sure to take steps to avoid barn fires, such as having your electrical appliances checked regularly and enforcing a no smoking policy in or near the barn.
 - For information on preparing livestock for disasters, see [the Humane Society's Disaster Preparedness page](#)
- **Hurricanes**
 - Think through your emergency plan and where you'll evacuate with your pet. If you're sheltering in place, consider where you'll go and make sure to bring your pet with you.
- **Tornadoes**
 - Bring your pet with you to a safe location while you shelter in place. Identify a room basement, storm cellar or safe room, or a small interior room on the lowest level of your building. Keep yourself and your pets away from windows, doors, and outside walls.

Make a Pet Emergency Plan

- ID your pet. Make sure your pet's tags are up-to-date and securely fastened to your pet's collar. If possible, attach the address and/or phone number of your evacuation site. If your pet gets lost, his tag is his ticket home. Also consider microchipping your pets.
- Make sure you have a current photo of your pet for identification purposes.
- Make a pet emergency kit using this quick list as a starting point:
 - Pet food



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- Bottled water
 - Medications
 - Veterinary records
 - Cat litter/pan
 - Manual can opener
 - Food dishes
 - First aid kit and other supplies
- Identify shelters. For public health reasons, many emergency shelters cannot accept pets. [Find out which motels and hotels in the area you plan to evacuate to allow pets](#) well in advance of needing them. Include your local animal shelter's number in your list of emergency numbers.
 - Make sure you have a secure pet carrier, leash, or harness for your pet.

Online Resources

- [Prepare Your Pets for Disasters | Ready.gov](#)
- [Humane Society: Disaster Preparedness for Livestock](#)
- [ASPCA | American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals](#)
- [Shelter Look-Up tool](#)

Social Media

- June is National #PetPreparedness Month. Include your pets in your family emergency plan: www.ready.gov/pets #PetPreparedness
- Preparing Makes Sense for Pet Owners. Watch this video for tips: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aUbSF_S20bE #PetPreparedness
- Don't forget to include your pets in your family's emergency plans. Share this 1-minute video: <https://youtu.be/BosQtZFv6Jk> #PetPreparedness
- Even with the windows rolled down, only minutes in a hot car can be deadly for your pet! NEVER leave your pets in the car! #PetPreparedness
- Does your pet have ID? Put your name and contact information on your pet's ID tag or microchip in case you're separated in an emergency. #PetPreparedness
- Identify pet shelters now before the next emergency at <https://www.gopetfriendly.com/> #PetPreparedness

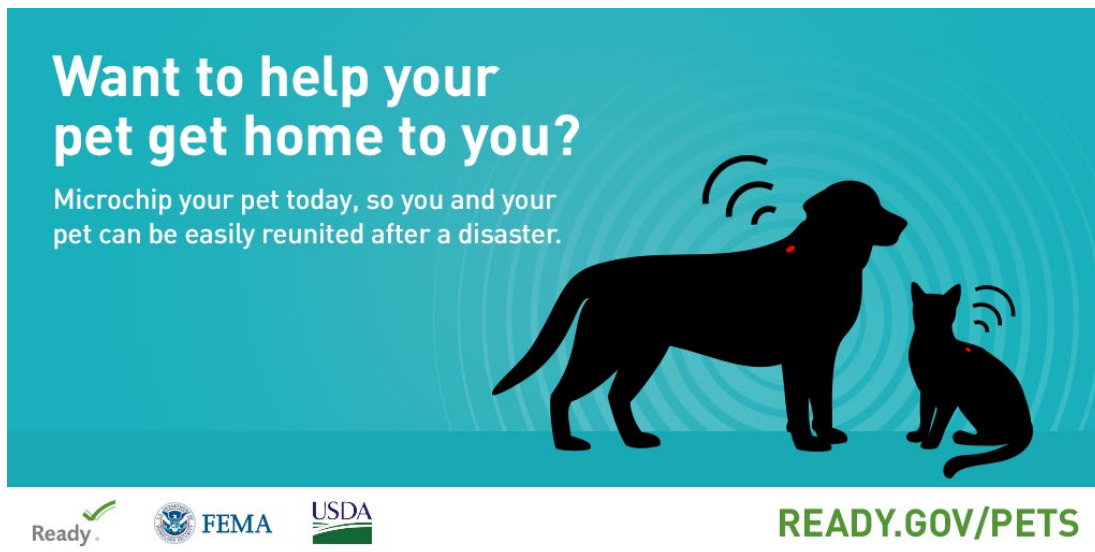


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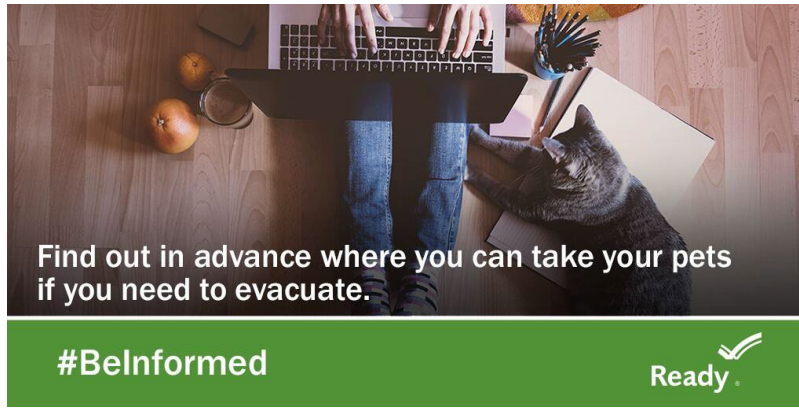
- Shelter in place or evacuate? Barn or pasture? Don't leave these livestock safety questions unanswered, you can be ready for an emergency with the help of:
<https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/disaster-preparedness-farm-animals>

Graphics

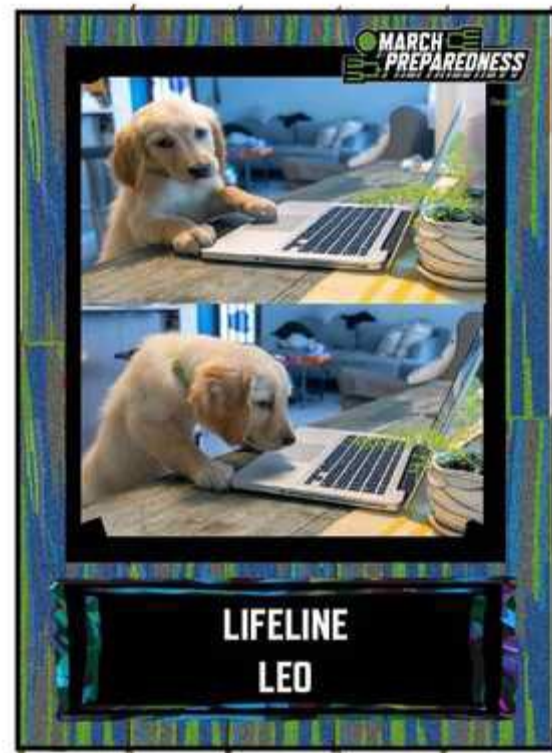


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What's in your 'paw'sonal go bag? Visit <https://www.ready.gov/pets> to learn what goes into an emergency kit for your pet.



Sign up is breeze, with or without a computer! NOAA weather radio, enabling Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) in your smartphone settings, and downloading the FEMA app will ensure that you can receive local emergency alerts.



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