



Pets in emergencies

Many shelters and hotels do not accept animals, so pets need their own plan and supplies. This page covers pet ID, a pet kit, where pets can go and how to keep them safe afterwards.

CHECKLIST

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| ☐ Several days of pet food in an airtight container | ☐ Labelled carrier or crate for each pet |
| ☐ Water and a bowl | ☐ Vaccination records and vet contact details |
| ☐ Extra medicines in a waterproof container | ☐ Recent photo of you with your pet |
| ☐ Pet first aid kit | ☐ Litter, litter tray and bin bags |
| ☐ Spare collar with ID tag, plus harness or leash | ☐ Familiar toy, treats or bedding |

PREPARE

- Fit a collar and tag with current details, and microchip and register your pet.
- Find pet-friendly places to go, such as relatives, hotels or boarding kennels.
- Arrange a trusted neighbour to check on or move your pets if you are out.
- Keep at least one week of pet food, water and medicines.
- Train pets to enter and stay in their carrier, and practise evacuating together.
- Keep a leash or carrier near the exit.

USE AND MAINTAIN

- Bring pets indoors at the first warning of a storm.
- Take your pet and its kit with you if you evacuate.
- Never leave a pet chained outdoors.
- When sheltering at home, use an inner room with few windows and remove toxic items.
- If you must leave a pet behind, leave extra food and water.
- Keep pets away from stagnant water, strays and wildlife.

REVIEW

- Keep pets on a leash or in a carrier outside, as familiar landmarks may change.
- Check your home for sharp debris, spilled chemicals and loose wires before letting pets roam.
- Contact a vet if your pet seems stressed, unwell or injured.
- Approach an injured pet slowly and keep your face away from its mouth.

IN THE UAE

The u.ae emergency page lists animal-related contacts, including the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment on 8003050 and Dubai Municipality on 800900.

MY NOTES

Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Be Prepared: Pet Safety in Emergencies (<https://www.cdc.gov/healthy-pets/emergency-preparedness/index.html>); Swedish Civil Defence and Resilience Agency (MCF), Preparedness for your pets (<https://www.mcf.se/en/advice-for-individuals/home-preparedness--prepping-for-at-least-a-week/preparedness-for-your-pets/>); Ready.gov (FEMA), via Cal Poly Pomona copy, Prepare Your Pets for Disasters (<https://www.cpp.edu/em/documents/prepare-your-pets-for-disasters-readygov-pdf.pdf>); UAE Government Portal (u.ae), Handling emergencies (<https://u.ae/en/information-and-services/justice-safety-and-the-law/handling-emergencies>) General guidance in our own words. Always follow your local authorities.