Caring for your Pet During Emergencies

Plan ahead to keep your pets safe.

- Pets can get scared and act strange during an emergency.
- Not all hotels or emergency shelters will accept pets, so plan ahead where your pet can go if you have to leave your home in an emergency.
- Keep your pet's shots current and keep a copy in your emergency supply kit.

Emergency Supply Kit for Pets

- A three-day supply of food and drinking water, bowls, bedding, cat litter and a container to be used as a litter box.
- Current photos and descriptions of pets.
- An up-to-date identification tag in case your pet gets lost.
- Medications, medical records and a first aid kit stored in a waterproof container.
- Sturdy leashes, harnesses, and carriers to transport pets safely.
- A favourite toy and blankets or towels for bedding and warmth.

When an emergency happens.

- Bring pets inside immediately. Animals sometimes sense severe weather changes and might run away to hide.
- Never leave pets outside or tied up during a storm.
- If you must leave your home, take your pets according to your emergency plan, and don't forget to bring your emergency supply kit.

After the emergency is over.

- The behaviour of your pets may change after an emergency. Your pet may be confused and even quiet and friendly pets may become aggressive or defensive.
- Stay nearby and watch your animals closely.
- Even if they usually run free, leash your pets when they go outside for the first few days until they get used to the surroundings again, and until you know everything is safe.
- Always keep pets away from downed power lines.
- If you have questions or concerns about your pet's behaviour, contact your veterinarian.