

# HOUSEHOLD PET EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST

With Southern California prone to earthquakes, wildfires and other disasters, it's important for pet owners to have an emergency plan in place. Here are some tips on how to prepare and what to do if you need to evacuate with your animals.



## □ UPDATE IDENTIFICATION

Make sure your pets are wearing proper identification at all times; this includes animals who don't normally go outside. Having your pet microchipped can also help identify them if they were to become lost. It's a good idea to include your cell phone number and the phone number of a friend or relative outside your immediate area in case your pet is lost and you aren't at home.

## □ EXTRA PRECAUTIONS

Many shelters also utilize the facial recognition app, Finding Rover, to quickly reunite lost dogs with their owners. Be sure to register your dog's photo on Finding Rover. It's free!

## □ CRATE TRAIN

Make sure your pets are comfortable with going in a crate by doing regular training sessions with treats. Also, if you own multiple pets, be sure you are able to transport all of your pets at the same time. Mark crates with your pets' names and your contact information.

## □ RESEARCH WHERE TO STAY

Look into pet-friendly hotels outside your immediate area and ask friends and relatives if you and your pets can stay with them in case of a disaster. Ask your local animal shelters and veterinary boarding facilities if they will board or shelter pets in an emergency (however, this should be a last resort as these facilities are likely to be stretched to their limits during a disaster).

## IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY

- ✓ **Bring Animals Indoors:** They will be safer and more secure inside. If you are sheltering in place, a bathroom can be a good space that's quiet and easy to clean. The exception to this is during an earthquake.
- ✓ **In Case You're Away:** Make arrangements in advance with a trusted neighbor (who is comfortable with your pets and knows where in the home they are likely to be) to take them and meet you at a specified location. Keep a rescue alert sticker by your front door to let first responders know what pets are inside.
- ✓ **Leave Early and Take Your Pets:** One of the most important things to do if you are evacuating your home is to take your pets with you, because you may be forced to stay away longer than anticipated. In addition, leave early and don't wait for mandatory evacuation orders — if emergency officials have to evacuate you, you might be told to leave your pets behind. Also, your pets will be less stressed if they are with you when evacuated versus a rescuer later.



Call **619-299-7012** for all animal-related emergencies from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. or after hours, contact your local law enforcement agency.

# PREPARE AN ANIMAL EMERGENCY KIT

Put the following supplies in a waterproof container and keep with your crate:

- Three-plus days' supply of food and water as well as bowls.
- Medications and medical records.
- Extra leashes and collars.
- Blankets or bedding and toys.
- Poop bags or litter box with litter, depending on your animal.
- Photos and descriptions of each pet (printed in case your phone doesn't work).
- Pet first aid kit.
- Stickers you can attach to your pet's tags with the information of your intended destination and temporary contact information.



## ONLINE RESOURCES

- @sdhumane on Twitter
- sdcountyemergency.com
- ReadySanDiego.org
- SDEmergency app
- @SanDiegoCounty on Twitter
- Finding Rover app

*En español:*

- ListoSanDiego.org
- SDEmergency app
- @ListoSanDiego on Twitter

**REMEMBER:** In case of a flood, fire, earthquake, hazardous spill or other disaster, your animals will rely on you to help them escape. **The more prepared you are, the safer you and your pets will be!**



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