

Make a Disaster Kit for Pets

A basic disaster kit for pets should include:

1. **Food and water for at least five days** for each pet, bowls and a manual can opener if you are packing canned pet food. People need at least one gallon of water per person per day. While your pet may not need that much, keep an extra gallon on hand to use if your pet has been exposed to chemicals or flood waters and needs to be rinsed.
2. **Medications and medical records stored in a waterproof container.**
3. **A pet first aid kit** that includes a book on pet first aid, gauze, nonstick tape, pet shampoo, tweezers, antibiotic ointment, styptic powder (for small wounds) and activated charcoal (for poison exposure). Many pet supply retailers sell pet first aid kits.
4. **Cat litter box**, litter, litter scoop and garbage bags to collect all your pets' waste.
5. **Sturdy leashes, harnesses and secure carriers** to transport pets safely and ensure that your pets can't escape. Make sure that your cat or dog is wearing a collar and identification that is up to date and visible at all times. Carriers should be large enough to allow your pet to stand comfortably, turn around and lie down. (They may have to stay in it for hours at a time.) If your pet is prone to chewing items, inspect the carrier's inside to ensure that your pet can't dislodge or ingest items that could cause injury.
6. **Current photos of you with your pets** and descriptions of your pets to help others identify them in case you and your pets become separated—and to prove that they are yours once you're reunited.
7. **Written information about your pets'** feeding schedules, medical conditions and behavior issues along with the name and number of your veterinarian in case you have to board your pets or place them in foster care.
8. **A favorite toy** for comfort and a familiar blanket for warmth, particularly for smaller pets.