



## DISASTERS – ARE YOU PREPARED?

*Thank you for inviting Friends of Pets to your meeting today. Due to our isolation in Alaska it is so important for all pet and animal owners to be prepared. Attached is a booklet published by the American Veterinary Medical Association I find to be one of most reader-friendly booklets published about disaster preparedness for most of the animal species found as pets.*

*A few items to remember when preparing for a disaster:*



*Never leave your pets or animals behind. Do not let anyone tell you to leave your animals behind.*



*Have a contact in state and out of state that may be able to take your pet.*



*Keep emergency items for your pet (kennel, water, medications, ID, etc.) in an easily-accessible area. It won't do any good to have them in your crawl space if you can't get to them.*



*Know what your community's disaster response plan is when it comes to pets. Where will rescued or found pets be taken during an emergency? Contact the Alaska Red Cross, the Municipality of Anchorage, or Anchorage Animal Care and Control to find this information.*



*With the growing popularity of dog walkers, dog sitters, and doggie day cares it is wise to make sure you have discussed an emergency plan for your pet with these people and businesses. What are they to do with your pet if there is need to evacuate in emergency? **Do they have written emergency plan for your pet?***



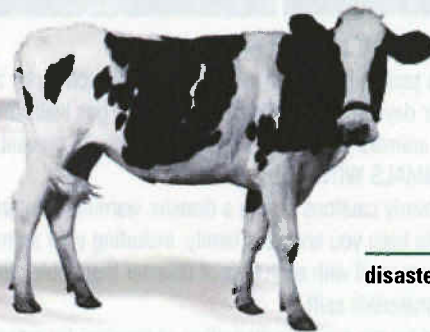
*Does your veterinarian have a written release on file for the person authorized to bring your pet in for treatment in case of emergency?*



*Do your children, close friends or neighbors know where your pet's emergency supplies are located?*



# Saving the *whole* family



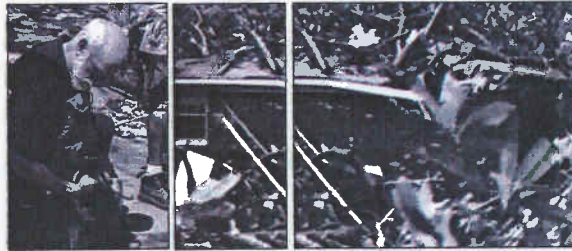
---

disaster preparedness  
series



# Saving the whole family

disaster preparedness



## Nature and life have fury days

Tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, fires, blizzards, terrorism...

Devastating natural and man-made disasters can ravage our lives. No one is exempt from the possibility of being affected personally. You need to prepare for yourself and for your animals in case of disaster.

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) has developed this booklet to help you avoid having to leave your animals stranded in the event of a disaster or an evacuation.

**Visit [www.avma.org](http://www.avma.org) for the most current information and for links to additional Web sites.**



## Do Not Wait Until It Is Too Late

Countless times people have been told to leave their homes for a "short time," only to find that they cannot return for days or weeks. Even disasters like gas leaks and minor flooding can keep you from tending to your animals for extended periods of time. To prevent situations such as these **TAKE YOUR ANIMALS WITH YOU.**

It is best to be overly cautious during a disaster warning. Preparing ahead of time and acting quickly is the best way to keep you and your family, including your animals, out of danger.

- Familiarize yourself with each type of disaster that could affect your area, not forgetting a hazardous materials spill.
- Be prepared for the possible disruption of services for extended periods of time, including electric, phone, and local food and water sources.
- Having a plan in place and practicing the plan prior to a disaster will help you accomplish a successful evacuation and maintain the safety of your animals.

## Preparedness Before the Disaster

### Preparing a Disaster Plan

Setup an appointment to talk to your VETERINARIAN about disaster planning.

- Assemble an animal EVACUATION KIT.
- Develop an evacuation plan for all of your animals and practice the plan.
- If you live in an apartment, make sure your animals are on record with management and are able to evacuate via the stairwell. Dogs should be taught to go up and down stairs to better assist rescue personnel.
- Keep written directions to your home near your telephone. This will help you and others explain to emergency responders exactly how to get to your home.
- Identify alternate sources of food and water.
- Have well maintained backup generators for use in food-animal production operations.
- Keep all vehicles well maintained and full of gas.
- Keep emergency cash on hand.
- If you have horses or livestock, good barn and field maintenance can reduce danger. Decide on the safest housing location if evacuation is impossible, realizing that the situation is still life threatening. Assess the stability and safety of barns and other structures, promptly remove dead trees, and minimize debris in the fields and immediate environment.

### In Case You Are Not At Home

Preplace stickers on front and back house doors, barn doors, and pasture entrances to notify neighbors, fire fighters, police, and other rescue personnel that animals are on your property and where to find your evacuation supplies.

- Provide a list near your evacuation supplies of the number, type, and location of your animals, noting favorite hiding spots, in order to save precious rescue time.
- To facilitate a successful rescue, provide muzzles, handling gloves, catch nets, and animal restraints where rescue personnel can find them. Keep in mind that animals may become unpredictable when frightened.
- Designate a willing neighbor to tend to your animals in the event that a disaster occurs when you are not at home. This person should have a key to your home, be familiar with your animals, know your evacuation procedures, and know where your evacuation supplies are kept.
- In your evacuation kit, keep a pre-signed letter that releases your neighbor from responsibility if one of your animals becomes injured during the evacuation.
- You may also want to have a pre-signed veterinary medical treatment authorization with your Evacuation Kit – this will aid your veterinarian if your animal must be treated during your absence.

