



The Earthquake Preparedness for Pets handout is a guide to help you protect and care for your pet in the event of an earthquake or other disaster.

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Earthquake Preparedness For Pets . . .

FOOD

Always keep at least a one week supply of pet food on hand for each pet in your home. It may not be possible to get to a store during or immediately after a disaster. Pet food has a limited shelf life, so be sure to rotate it at least once a year. The general rule is one can of suitable size can food per day per pet. Canned pet food will keep unrefrigerated for a least twenty-four hours if capped and kept in a cool location. Cap bowl, serving knife and can opener should be included in your pet supply kit.

WATER

Animals can drink from water sources not suitable for humans. Puddle water may have a contaminated surface that could cause stomach irritation and ulcers, so running or boiled water is better.

SANITATION

It will probably be necessary to clean up after your pet when you have evacuated to a shelter or temporary location. Include plastic bags and newspaper in your kit. It is not practical to pack out kitty litter. Include a litter pan and liner in your kit. You can place the litter pan liner into the litter box and fill with sand or soil once you are in place after evacuation.

MEDICAL NEEDS

Once you have determined that you and your family are safe and have dealt with human needs, check your pets for injuries or medical needs. If your pet is injured you must be prepared to render first aid. You should look into veterinary first aid guides and manuals and kits as part of your disaster preparedness long before anything happens.

Be aware that an injured animal is very frightened and may bite or scratch a rescuer, thinking that you are trying to cause further harm. The animal should be approached carefully and with protection in the form of gloves, blanket, pillowcase, muzzle or other materials. A muzzle may be made from a gauze roll or can be purchased at pet supply shops and placed in the kit.

TRANSPORTATION

All dogs should wear a sturdy collar with up to date tags at all times. Stay at home dogs not used to a collar will need one for evacuation purposes. Dog leashes and cat head harnesses should be added to your kit. It is recommended that cat owners keep a wax-lined carrying case or light weight permanent carrying case with their evacuation supplies.

IDENTIFICATION

All dogs should have up to date registration. Both cats and dogs may be further identified through the insertion of a microchip, usually available through your local Humane Society or veterinarian. Along with your pet's medical history you should keep an up to date photo of the animal for use in case you become separated from your pet.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

If you are evacuated to a community or Red Cross shelter be aware that they DO NOT accept pets. Usually an area is set aside for pets, but you will have to secure each animal. Your leash should be able to secure an animal to a fence, tree or suitable post. Don't forget to walk you animal and take time to be with them after they are secured. Be aware that a dog can be very territorial, especially under stress, and may wish to defend their toys. You may wish to add a familiar blanket or toy to the supplies to help keep your pet happy. Most cats and dogs enjoy being brushed and most owners find the procedure to be calming and relaxing. With these two results in mind it is a good idea to include simple grooming supplies to your kit.

During An Earthquake

Do not try to hold your pet during the shaking. Animals will instinctively protect themselves and hide where they are safe. If you get in their way, even the nicest pets can turn on you.

If you have outdoor pets, you should keep them indoors until the aftershocks have subsided and they have calmed down.

Pet Supply Kit

Capped bowl	Medical history
Pet food, serving knife	Photo of pet
Can opener	Work gloves, muzzle
Bowl for drinking water	Dog tags
Plastic bags and newspaper	Dog leash, cat head harness
Litter box and liners	Grooming supplies
First aid guides, manuals	Animal toys
First aid kit (from your Vet)	Blanket
Splinting material	Disinfectants, newspapers
Pet medication	Paper towels