

BCSPCA DISASTER PLANNING CHECKLIST FOR FAMILIES WITH PETS

Don't be caught unprepared in the event of a natural disaster! Every family member should be considered in emergency planning – including pets. Evacuation centres will not have pet supplies, so it's important to have everything you need for your pets for one week. This checklist can help you prepare:

Basic supplies

- Food, water and treats (including dishes) for one week (dogs: 4 litres of water per day; cats: 1 litre/day)
- Medications and medical records (include vet contact info), plus pet photos with written descriptions of your pets (store in a Ziploc bag)
- Dogs: waste bags; cats: small cat litter box, litter, scoop, garbage bags; small animals: bedding, extra water bottle, hiding box, extra hay
- Dog leashes (6 foot and 15-20 foot), harness, muzzle; consider having a cat harness and leash
- Sturdy carriers for each pet (consider expandable “tent” carrier for cats; exercise pen for dogs; travel cage for small animals)
- Toys to help entertain and lower stress (dogs: Kong, ball, treat ball; cats: feather wand, catnip toys)
- Towels/blankets
- Other supplies: can opener, spoon/scoop, pet first-aid kit, disinfectant for pet mess clean-up, paper towels, rope, duct tape, Sharpie marker, snap ties

More helpful tips

- Record your pets' microchip/tattoo and license numbers. Store this information with their medical records.
- Label all containers with pet names and your contact information – things can go missing in an emergency.
- As many items as possible should be packed in ready-to-go bins or backpacks. Mark storage bins with pet names and your contact information in case items are separated at an evacuation centre.
- You should have an emergency plan for all animals and move challenging animals such as farm animals, birds, aquarium fish or exotic animals as soon as possible.
- If you have animals who cannot be moved in an immediate evacuation, such as aquarium fish or farm animals, create a sign describing the animals left on the property with your name and contact information. Prepare this now and keep tape with it so it is ready to affix to your door to alert rescue officials.
- While in storage, rotate pet food and water every three months; replace medications as advised by your veterinarian.



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