



September is National Preparedness Month

National Preparedness Month has arrived. Now's the time to make a plan and include your pets in your strategy!

Keep a first aid safety kit on hand at home. If you travel with your pet, keep one in your car too. Your home kit should include an animal first aid book that you are familiar with—don't wait until the emergency to start reading. Small pamphlets are available from American Red Cross for use in your car.

Keep essential medical record information (including your pet's name, age, breed, sex, microchip number, vaccine history and any preexisting health problems) with any kit. This will make it easier to relay this information to a veterinarian if you call for assistance. Be sure to keep your veterinarian's contact information handy in any kits.

If you are traveling, do a little research ahead of time to collect emergency veterinarian contact information, should you need help along the way. In the car kit, keep advance directive information and/or contact information for a friend or relative who can make medical decisions for your pet.

It is also a good idea to keep a disaster/evacuation kit for your pet at home. Store this evacuation kit with leashes and carriers, as close to an exit as possible.

As part of your evacuation planning, arrange accommodations for your pet ahead of time. If you have to evacuate, do not leave your pet behind. If it is not safe for you to be in your home, it isn't safe for your pet to be there either. Since not all Red Cross or other disaster shelters accept pets, it is imperative that you have determined where you will bring your pets ahead of time.

Make sure all your pets wear collars and tags with up-to-date identification. Your pet's ID tag should contain a name and telephone number. If your pet has urgent medical needs, a medic-alert-type tag is a good addition. If you are evacuating with a small dog or cat, be sure your pet's name as well as your name and contact information are on your pet's carrier in case you are separated.

Make evacuation plans ahead of time so that when disaster strikes, you will be prepared! Your evacuation kit should be clearly labeled and easy to carry. Perishable or dated items should be rotated out every few months.

First Aid Kit Supplies:

- Blanket (a compact thermal blanket works well to help control shock)
- Bandana (muzzle – do not use if vomiting, or head wound wrap)
- Socks (for use a foot bandages or for warmth)
- Nylon leash
- Bandage scissors
- Tweezers (flat slant tip instead of the rounded variety)
- Tongue depressor (to examine mouth)
- Disposable gloves
- Rectal thermometer
- Disposable safety razor (for shaving fur from around a wound)
- Towels (at least two)
- Paper towels and hand sanitizer
- Penlight
- 3x3 inch sterile gauze pads
- Rolled gauze (for bandaging or making a muzzle)
- Adhesive first aid tape
- Vet wrap (sticks to itself but not fur)
- Anti-bacterial wipes or pads
- Q-tips
- Hot/cold pack (to reduce swelling)
- Nolvasan solution (a type of antiseptic medicine for wounds to deter infection)
- Water based lubricant (helpful aid for taking temperature)
- Sterile saline eye solution (to flush out eye contaminants and wounds)
- Artificial tear gel (lubricate eyes after flushing)
- Mild grease-cutting dishwashing liquid (to clean contaminated skin or sticky substances)
- Plastic baggies
- Pet crate or carrier (a safe, calming place for your pet and a safe way to transport)
- Bottled water
- Bowl or other container to use for water

Disaster Preparedness Kit Supplies:

- Enough canned (pop-top) or dry food to last three to seven days
- Disposable litter trays
- Litter or paper toweling
- Liquid dish soap and disinfectant
- Disposable garbage bags for clean-up
- Pet feeding dishes
- Extra collar or harness as well as an extra leash
- Bottled water to last at least a week
- A traveling bag, crate or sturdy carrier, one for each pet
- Flashlight
- Blanket (for scooping up a fearful pet)
- Pillowcase or EvackSack for securing cats
- Toys and treats
- Photocopies of medical records and current prescriptions in a waterproof container
- A two-week supply of any medicine your pet requires and appropriate administration devices
- Recent photos of your pets (in case you are separated and need to make lost posters)

PET FIRST AID WORKSHOP

Saturday, October 17, 2015
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Space for our workshops are limited and spaces do fill quickly. Pets welcome in spirit only. Thank you for understanding.

Register online at dovelewis.org.

