



Information Series

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If disaster struck today, what would happen to your pet?

Your family plans should include four-legged members, too. No one plan can cover all the possibilities, but a certain amount of planning is possible. Considering a worst-case scenario (earthquake, for example) gives us some tools that may help in other situations, too. Nothing can prevent a disaster, but some provisions can help us get through it. Hopefully, this pamphlet will help you plan for a terrible "sometime" we hope will never come.

These are things you can do now:

1. Take color pictures of your pet. Store them in a re-sealable plastic. If you should need to post them or give them to a center for identification purposes, the plastic bag can protect them from the weather.
2. Set aside a week's supply of food & water for your pet along with your own emergency supply. If the pet usually eats canned food, get the kind with the pull-off lid so you don't have to worry about a can opener. Include snacks...pets need comfort, too. Set aside dishes and remember the kitty litter and litter pan if you have a cat. Small animal chow & bird seed can be stored in plastic air-tight containers. Old aquariums or cat crates can temporarily house reptiles & amphibians. Store extra heating lamps or hot water bottles to keep these critters warm.
3. **Be sure your pet is wearing identification NOW.** This is probably the single most important provision you can make for your pet, especially if there is any chance you may be separated.
4. Keep a leash and cable in the car. Remember, if fences are blown down or walls aren't standing, containing your pet safely can be a real problem. If you have a cat, be sure your carrier is large enough for the cat to stay in comfortably with a small litter pan.
5. Keep an extra supply of any medication your pet takes regularly. Also keep an ice-pack and first aid supplies your pet may need (a list is on the back). Keep your vet's name &

phone number with the pet's first aid kit. Include vaccination records and any other health records. Remember, Red Cross shelters don't usually take pets. You may have to leave your pet with an animal shelter facility until you can get your home resettled.

6. Try to normalize pet's times for feeding & treats as much as possible. Most pets have a very strong sense of time and routine is important to them.
7. Know where your local animal shelter is. Animal Services for Thurston County is located at 3120 Martin Way in Olympia. If the Shelter is not usable (in an earthquake situation it may not be) emergency arrangements for sheltering lost or displaced pets will probably be the Thurston County Fairgrounds, off Carpenter Road.
8. If you have a regular arrangement with a neighbor for mutual pet care or if you have a regular kennel or boarding facility, talk to them about how they would handle emergency arrangements. If you had to stay in an emergency shelter (or if a personal emergency occurs), your pet would be much better off in a kennel facility or with a friend already familiar with the pet's needs.

Pet First Aid Kit

Store all of the following items in a waterproof bag with your pet's color photos.

What you'll need:

- Antibiotic ointment
- Tweezers
- Scissors
- Gauze pads & roll
- Ace bandage
- Cold/hot water bottle or pack
- Zinc oxide
- Pair of old socks
- Muzzle
- Latex gloves
- Cotton-tipped swabs
- Absorbent dressing
- Antiseptic liquid and wipes