



## PETS & ANIMALS

Do you have a plan for your pets in case of an emergency? A well-practiced emergency program will not only reduce stress but also save precious time and perhaps your animal's life.

### Planning for an Emergency

Keep your pet's license current and make sure that a collar and identification tag is worn at all times. Consider having a safe, permanent microchip implanted in your pet, as this ID cannot be lost or removed.

Develop a neighborhood plan: Get to know your neighbors and their pets. Keep an updated list of their home and work numbers (update every six months) and select a neighborhood coordinator who will be ready to assist should an emergency occur when you are not home. It's best if this person spends much of their time at home, or works within walking distance of the neighborhood. Select one or two back-up coordinators in case the primary person is unavailable.

### Prepare a first-aid kit for your pet and Include:

- Large and small bandages, elastic tape
- Scissors, tweezers, Q-tips
- Antibiotic ointment, hydrogen peroxide (to induce vomiting or for cleaning deep wounds)
- Eye wash (saline) and ear cleaning (chlorhexidem, epi-otic) solutions
- Any special medication prescribed by your veterinarian

### During an Emergency

In case of evacuation, Red Cross shelters do not accept pets. Prepare a list of back-up arrangements, such as homes of friends and family, hotels that allow pets, boarding facilities, vet hospitals, and/or animal shelters. It is generally not recommended that you leave your pet behind when evacuating, but if you must, follow these guidelines to help ensure your pet's safety:

- Post a highly visible sign in a window to let rescue workers know how many pets were left behind.
- Remember to remove the sign if no pets are left in the home.
- Leave plenty of water in a large, open container which cannot be tipped over.
- Leave food in timed feeders (check local pet stores for these). The feeders prevent your pet from eating a week's worth of food in one day.
- Do not tie or cage your pet, as the chances for survival are greater if it can escape easily.

### **Pet Emergency Kit**

A prepared emergency kit kept in a safe and easily accessible place will enable you to provide immediate care to your animal in an emergency. A calm, well trained animal who is either on a leash or in a carrier will be more welcome wherever you go. Items to include:

- Sturdy crate and/or carrier with blankets or towels inside
- Identification tag, collar and leash for each dog and cat
- Food/water (7-day supply for each pet) and non-spill bowls
- Litter/litter box
- Manual can opener/plastic lid
- Copy of your pet's current vaccination history and recent photos of your pet
- Pet first-aid book, available at local pet store or from your veterinarian (include phones numbers of your local emergency veterinary clinic)
- Phone number of your local animal shelter for anytime of any day or night
- Long-term confinement equipment such as cable runs and/or tie-out stakes, portable caging
- Plastic bags for cat litter disposal and dog clean-up
- Newspapers and paper towels

This information can be downloaded at: [www.ci.agoura-hills.ca.us](http://www.ci.agoura-hills.ca.us)