

Your pets rely on you for safety. Be prepared during a disaster, emergency or crisis.



If you are like millions of animal owners nationwide, your pet is an important member of your family. The likelihood that you and your pet would survive an emergency such as a fire, flood, or terrorist attack depends largely on the emergency planning that is done today. Some of the things you can do to prepare for the unexpected such as putting together an emergency kit and developing a pet care buddy system, are the same for any emergency. Whether you decide to stay put in an emergency or evacuate to a safer location, you will need to make plans in advance for your pets. What is best for you is typically best for your animals.



MISSION VIEJO
Animal Services Center

Serving the Cities of Mission Viejo, Laguna Niguel,
Aliso Viejo, Laguna Hills, and Rancho Santa Margarita

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**Pet
Disaster
Preparedness**



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1 Prepare

Get a Pet Emergency Supply Kit

Just as you would with your family's emergency supply kit, think of the basics for survival, particularly food and water.

Consider making two kits. In the first one put everything you and your pets will need to stay where you are. The other should be a light weight, smaller version you can take with you if you and your pets have to get away. Review your kits often, or keep an inventory record to insure that everything is fresh and not expired.

Food: Keep at least three days worth of food in airtight, waterproof container.

Water: Store at least three days worth of water for your pets in addition to the water needs of your family.

Medicines and medical records: Keep an extra supply of medicines that your pet takes on a regular basis in a waterproof container.

First Aid Kit: Include cotton bandage rolls, bandage tape and scissors, antibiotic ointment, flea and tick prevention, latex gloves, isopropyl alcohol, and saline solution. Include a pet first aid reference book.

Collar with ID tag, harness and leash: Your pet should wear a collar with its license tag and identification tag at all times. Include a backup leash, collar and ID tag. In addition place copies of your pet's registration information, vaccination and medical records in a clean plastic bag or waterproof container. You should also consider microchipping your pet if you have not already. Microchips allow your pets to carry permanent ID at all times.

Crate or Pet Carrier: If you need to evacuate in an emergency situation take your pets with you. The carrier should be large enough for your pet to stand, turn around and lie down.

Sanitation: Include pet litter and litter box if appropriate, newspaper, paper towels, plastic trash bags, and household bleach to provide for your pets sanitation needs. You can use bleach as a disinfectant. (dilute nine parts water to one part bleach).

A picture of you and your pet together: If you become separated from your pet during an emergency, a picture of you with your pet will document ownership.

Familiar Items: Add favorite toys, treats, or bedding in kit.

2 Plan

What You Should Do in an Emergency

Be prepared to assess the situation. Depending on your circumstances and the nature of the emergency the first important decision is whether to stay or get away.

You should plan for both possibilities. Use common sense and the information you are learning here to determine if there is immediate danger. In an emergency local authorities may or may not immediately be able to provide information on what is happening and what you should do. However, watch TV, listen to the radio or check the internet for instructions. If you're specifically told to evacuate, stay put, or seek medical attention, do so immediately.

Create a plan to get away: Anticipate where you will go if you have to evacuate. If you go to a public shelter, keep in mind that your animals may not be allowed inside. Secure appropriate lodging in advance depending on the number and type of animals in your care. Some options may include: a hotel or motel that takes pets or a boarding facility, such as a kennel or veterinary hospital that is near an evacuation facility or your family's meeting place.

Develop a buddy system: Plan with neighbors, friends or relatives to make sure that someone is available to care for or evacuate your pets if you are unable to do so. Talk with your pet care buddy about your evacuation plans and show them where your pet's emergency supply kit is. Also designate specific locations, one in your immediate neighborhood and another farther away, where you will meet in an emergency.



3 Stay Informed

Know about Types of Emergencies

It's important to stay informed about what might happen and know what types of emergencies are likely to affect your region as well as emergency plans that have been established by your state and local government. For more information about how to prepare, visit www.ready.gov or call (800)-BE-READY.

Be prepared to adapt this information to your personal circumstances and make every effort to follow instructions received from authorities on the scene. With these simple preparations, you can be ready for the unexpected. Those who take the time to prepare their pets will likely encounter less difficulty, stress and worry. Take the time now to prepare your family and your pet.

Pet Friendly Hotels:

1. **Extended Stay America**
Lake Forest
(949) 598-1898
2. **Quality Inn & Suites**
Lake Forest
(949) 488-1900
3. **Residence Inn**
Irvine
(949) 380-3000
4. **La Quinta Inn**
Irvine
(949) 551-0909
5. **Candlewood Suites**
Irvine
(877) 660-8545

