



## RSPCA School for Dogs Information Sheet

# Preparing your pet for emergencies

Are your pet's part of your emergency plan? Planning now can save your animals lives

Preparing your animals' needs is vital when planning for emergencies. The animals in our lives depend solely upon us for their safety and wellbeing.

The following information is to help you plan and prepare for your pet's needs during and after disasters such as floods, cyclones or bushfires, and to help you to be ready to go in the event of an evacuation.

### Planning ahead and being prepared

Check with your local councils or government organisations for information on temporary animal shelters to house your pets during and after disasters. It is not always possible to take your pets with you to temporary evacuation shelters, so ensure you have temporary housing planned for them. Make a list of pet friendly motels, animal shelters, veterinary surgeries and boarding kennels that may be able to take your pets. Your pets may be able to stay with friends or family who are not within the danger zone.

Late evacuation can be dangerous. To avoid unnecessary risk to you and your pets, move animals to a safer place as early as possible. Coordinate an evacuation plan with your neighbours, friends and family.

### Vaccinations

Make sure that your pets vaccinations are up to date and that you have proof of this! Most boarding facilities require a minimum C5 (dogs) or F3 (cats) vaccination to accept your pets.

### Identification

Ensure your pets are adequately identified with collars, tags and microchips. Make sure that your contact details, particularly your mobile phone numbers, are current.

### Crate training your pets

Common pets such as cats and dogs can easily be crate trained prior to any emergencies. This depends on the animal, but can take as little as a few weeks to ensure your animal is comfortable entering, exiting and waiting in a crate. Safety is extremely important during disaster situations, and bear in mind that animals can display unusual behaviours when in a stressful environment. Having your pet's safe in a crate can be a weight off your mind. If your pet needs to be held somewhere temporarily or transported by boat or vehicle, you can be sure that they are safe. Refer to our Crating for Management information sheet for advice on how to teach your pet to love its crate.



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### Pet Emergency Supply Kit

We recommend that you have a lightweight plastic box/kit full of your pet's needs ready to go in the event of an evacuation. For example;

### Animal Emergency Supply Kit

- Crate or portable pet carrier
- Lead and collar and/or harness for each pet
- Portable/collapsible/travel food and water bowls
- Bedding/blankets
- Photograph of your pets - place in plastic bags
- Copy or original of essential paperwork such as vaccination certificates, pedigree etc
- Medication supply (including worming tablets, flea and tick control and heartworm prevention) for at least 2 weeks and details of medications, dosage and how often
- 2 weeks supply of packaged/tinned food for your pets (include a can opener for tinned foods)
- Water
- Folded newspaper or litter tray (for cat litter)
- Litter for cats
- Poo bags
- Comfort items such as a toy
- Contact details for your pet's veterinarian and alternative accommodation
- First aid supplies:
  - Gauze bandages and pads
  - Adhesive tape
  - Scissors
  - Latex gloves
  - Saline solution
- Anti-stress remedies such as Rescue Remedy

Incorporate these items into your own emergency plan.

For more information on preparing your pets for emergencies see:

<https://www.qld.gov.au/emergency/dealing-disasters/prepare-for-disasters/prepare-pets>  
<https://rspcavic.org/services/emergency-assistance/emergency-planning/>