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## ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL

# Pet Disaster Plan



## SAN FRANCISCO

Disaster Preparedness Coalition For Animals



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Permit No. 4

Do you have a plan for your pets in case of an earthquake, flood or fire? In the event of an emergency, a well-practiced disaster program will not only reduce stress, but also will save precious time – and possibly lives. These are our recommendations to help keep you and your pets safe during a disaster.

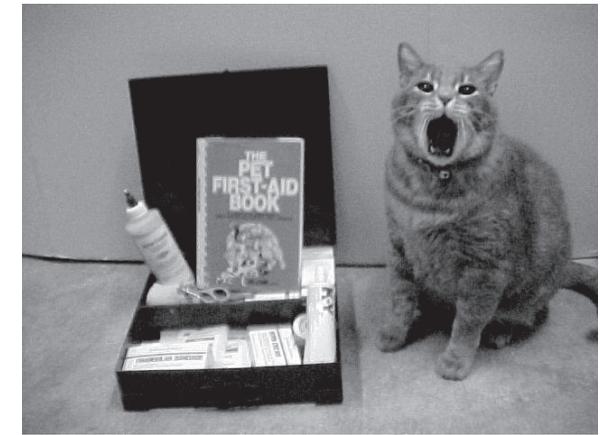
### Before Disaster Strikes

#### Identify Your Pet

Keep a collar, a current license and up-to-date identification tags on your pet at *all times*. Consider having a safe, permanent microchip implanted in your pet. This type of identification cannot fall off or be removed. Most veterinarians offer microchipping services to their customers. If your pet is already microchipped, make sure that you register with the manufacturer's database, and remember to notify the company if you move or change phone numbers.

#### Crate Train Your Pet

Train your pet to enter his/her carrier or crate at your command. Try putting your pet's favorite treat in his/her carrier and sounding a bell at the same time. Repeat this process every day, until your pet comes running at the sound of the bell. Continue this routine often enough to keep it fresh in your pet's mind. This training will be extremely helpful when locating a frightened animal. Also important – make sure your pet is comfortable being handled.



### Prepare a First Aid Kit

Include:

- + Large and small bandages
- + Scissors
- + Tweezers
- + Cotton swabs
- + Antibiotic ointment
- + Hydrogen peroxide (to induce vomiting or clean deep wounds)
- + Elastic tape
- + Eye wash (saline)
- + Ear-cleaning solutions
- + K-Y Jelly (water soluble)
- + Any special medications prescribed by your veterinarian

### Secure Bird Cages and Aquariums

Because these items may move and/or break during a disaster, securing them on low stands or tables is advisable. Tighten the latch on your birdcage so that the door cannot be shaken open easily.

## Develop a Neighborhood Plan

Get to know your neighbors and their pets. Keep an updated list of their home and work phone numbers (remember to update these frequently) and select a neighborhood coordinator who will be ready to assist should a disaster occur when you are not at home. Make sure this person spends much of their time at home, or that they work within walking distance of your neighborhood. Select one or two backup coordinators in case the primary person is not available.

## If Your Pet Is Lost

- ✦ Immediately call or visit the nearest animal shelter to report your pet missing.
- ✦ When it is safe, return to your neighborhood to post or distribute “Lost Pet” posters. Be sure and include your name, home address and home and work phone numbers. It’s always helpful to include a current photograph of your pet.
- ✦ When it is safe, continue to search the area for your missing pet. A frightened animal may stay hidden for days.
- ✦ Call neighbors and service workers, such as mail carriers, police, firefighters and PG&E workers for leads.

## If You Find a Lost Pet

Notify your local animal shelter as soon as possible. Be prepared to give a full description of the animal. Include breed, color, and sex and the location where the animal was found. Remember that sick and/or injured animals can become unpredictable from fear and pain, and should be handled only by professionals with proper equipment.

## In Case of Evacuation

It is recommended that you take your pets with you during an evacuation. If you must leave your pets behind, follow these guidelines to help ensure their safety.

- ✦ Let rescue workers know that you had to leave your home without your pets. Write the number of pets in your residence, the types of animals that they are, their location in your home and the date that you left on your front door with chalk, paint or marker. Or consider posting a sign with the same information on your front door or in a highly visible window.
- ✦ Leave plenty of water in a large, open container that cannot be tipped over.
- ✦ Leave plenty of food in timed feeders (check local pet supply stores.) These will prevent your pet from overeating.
- ✦ Do not tie or cage your pet in your home! The chances of your pet’s survival are greater if they can escape easily if needed.



## Pet Disaster Kit

A prepared disaster kit, kept in a safe and easily accessible place, will enable you to evacuate immediately and provide care to your pet in an emergency. A calm, well-trained pet, who is either on leash, or in a carrier, will be more welcome wherever you go.

## Items to Include

- ✦ Sturdy crate and/or pet carrier
- ✦ Identification tags and collars
- ✦ Leashes
- ✦ Food and water (a 7 day supply for each pet)
- ✦ Non-spill bowls
- ✦ Litter box and litter
- ✦ Any special medications

- ✦ Manual can opener and plastic lid
- ✦ Copy of your pet’s vaccination history
- ✦ Recent photos of each pet
- ✦ Pet First-Aid book
- ✦ Pet First-Aid kit
- ✦ Phone numbers of a local emergency veterinary hospital
- ✦ Phone number of your local animal shelter (Animal Care & Control 415-554-6364) for emergency services 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- ✦ Long-term confinement equipment: portable fencing, X-pens, baby gates
- ✦ Plastic bags for pet cleanup
- ✦ Emergency phone numbers (next of kin)

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For more information,  
please call Animal Care & Control  
at 415-554-6364 or  
visit [www.72hours.org](http://www.72hours.org) or  
[www.sfdpca.net](http://www.sfdpca.net).



*This project was supported by Award Nos. 2004-0014 and 2005-0015, awarded by the Office of Homeland Security (OHS), through the federal Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Office for Domestic Preparedness (ODP).*