

Week 5

A Season of Resilience in Emergency Preparations

Weekly Focus

WHAT	WHY
1. Preparations for pets. 2. Create a small kit to keep in your car.	- Animals require additional preparations to ensure the safety of people are not jeopardized while fulfilling responsibilities. - Being prepared while out of the house can help reduce your risk.

Make A Plan

Pets and farm animals require additional steps to safeguard, to the extent possible, during emergency situations.

(Source: <https://www.ready.gov/pets>)

- ___ Step 1: **Have an evacuation plan for your pet.** Many public shelters and hotels do not allow pets inside. Know a safe place where you can take your pets before disasters and emergencies happen.
- ___ Step 2: **Have proper transportation.** Make available vehicles and trailers needed for transporting and supporting each type of animal. Also make available experienced handlers and drivers.
- ___ Step 3: **Develop a buddy system.** Plan with neighbors, friends, or relatives to ensure someone is available to care for or evacuate your pets if you are unable to do so.
- ___ Step 4: **Have identification information.** All pets have collars and identification, including a microchip! Keep your address and phone number up-to-date and include contact information for an emergency contact outside of your immediate area.
- ___ Step 5: **Keep vaccinations current.** Have copies of health records.
- ___ Step 6: **Have emergency pet supplies.** Keep at least one week's supply of food, water, and supplies such as litter, as well as two weeks' medication on hand for each pet.
- ___ Step 7: **Contact your local emergency management office, animal shelter or animal control office** to get additional advice and information if you're unsure how to care for your pet in case of an emergency.
- ___ Step 8: **Always bring pets indoors** at the first sign or warning of a storm or disaster.

Be Informed

- Domestic animals may be more difficult to handle during a natural disaster as their anxiety & instincts take over.
- Avoid contact with wild animals in your area as their behavior may be very unpredictable or dangerous.

"While the care of animals in disasters should never take precedence over the care of people, providing care for animals may facilitate the personal safety and care of a large segment of the human population." - FEMA

- Lost/abandoned animals can increase hazards during an emergency such as traffic jams and accidents.
- Victims have been distressed when informed pets were not allowed in public shelters.
- Some owners have refused to evacuate in a timely & safe manner because they could not take their pets.

Make A Kit

In addition to an evacuation and stay-at-home kit kept in your house, it is advised to keep a few items always in your car.

Car Kit		
___ Jumper cables	___ Blanket	___ Water bottle w/ water
___ Flares or reflective triangle	___ Maps	___ Snacks
___ Ice scraper & small snow shovel	___ Cat litter or sand (for traction)	___ Small first aid kit
___ Car cell phone charger	___ Flashlight	___ Work gloves

Remember the following is for 1 pet, multiply as needed for each pet.

Pet Evacuation Kit

- Pet Food: at least 3-day supply in airtight, waterproof containers.
- Water: at least 3-day supply.
- Medicine & medical records: most boarding kennels & animal shelters will require records to ensure vaccinations.
- Identification documents: registration & vaccination.
- Collar or harness w/ ID tag, rabies tag, & leash.
- Crate or pet carrier.
- Sanitation: plastic bags, litter & litter box, bleach, paper towels, grooming.
- Picture: of you w/ your pet to prove ownership along w/ breed, age, gender, color, etc.
- Familiar items: treats, toys, bedding.

Pet Stay-At-Home

- Pet Food: 7–14-day supply in airtight, waterproof containers.
- Water: 7–14-day supply.
- Medicine & medical records: most boarding kennels & animal shelters will require records to ensure vaccinations.
- Identification documents: registration & vaccination.
- Collar or harness w/ ID tag, rabies tag, & leash.
- Crate or pet carrier.
- Sanitation: plastic bags, litter & litter box, bleach, paper towels.
- Picture: of you w/ your pet to prove ownership along w/ breed, age, gender, color, etc.
- Familiar items: treats, toys, bedding.

Car Safety Tips (source: [ready.gov/car](https://www.ready.gov/car))

- Keep your gas tank full in case of evacuation or power outages. A full tank will also keep the fuel line from freezing.
- Install good winter tires and make sure they have enough tread, or any chains or studs required in your local area.
- Do not drive through flooded areas. Six inches of water can cause a vehicle to lose control or possibly stall. A foot of water will float many cars.
- Be aware of areas where floodwaters have receded. Roads may have weakened and could collapse under the weight of a car.
- If a power line falls on your car you are at risk of electrical shock. Stay inside until a trained person removes the wire.
- If it becomes hard to control the car, pull over, stop the car and set the parking brake.
- If the emergency could affect the stability of the roadway avoid overpasses, bridges, power lines, signs and other hazards.

Prepare Your Car for Emergencies

Have a mechanic check the following on your car before an emergency:

- Antifreeze levels
- Battery and ignition system
- Brakes
- Exhaust system
- Fuel and air filters
- Heater and defroster
- Lights and flashing hazard lights
- Oil
- Thermostat
- Windshield wiper equipment and washer fluid level