

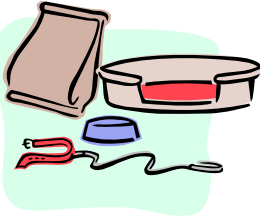
# Monterey County Health Department

## Preparedness Minute

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### Preparing your Pets Fluffy needs an Emergency Kit too!



They are our best friends and companions and will depend on us in an emergency. Just as you do with your family's emergency supply kit, think first about the basics for survival, particularly food and water. Consider two kits. In one, put everything you and your pets will need to stay where you are. The other should be a lightweight, smaller version you can take with you if you and your pets have to get away.

- 🐾 **Food.** Keep at least three days of food in an airtight, waterproof container.
- 🐾 **Water.** Store at least three days of water specific for your pets in addition to water you need for yourself and your family.
- 🐾 **Medicines and medical records.** Keep an extra supply of medicines your pet takes on a regular basis in a waterproof container. Rotate supply as needed.
- 🐾 **Copies of your pet's registration information,** adoption papers, vaccination documents and medical records in a clean plastic bag or waterproof container. Talk to your veterinarian about permanent identification such as microchipping, and enrolling your pet in a recovery database.
- 🐾 **First aid kit.** Consult with your veterinarian about what is most appropriate for your pet's emergency medical needs. Most kits should 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 or leash.** Your pet should wear a collar with its rabies tag and identification at all times. Include a backup leash, collar and ID tag in your pet's emergency supply kit.
- 🐾 **Crate or other pet carrier.** If you need to evacuate in an emergency situation take your pets and animals with you provided that it is practical to do so. In many cases, your ability to do so will be aided by having a sturdy, safe, comfortable crate or carrier ready for transporting your pet. 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, newspapers, paper towels, plastic trash bags provide for your pet's sanitation needs. You can use bleach as a disinfectant (dilute nine parts water to one part bleach), or in an emergency you can also use it to purify water. Use 16 drops of regular household liquid bleach per gallon of water. Do not use scented or color safe bleaches, or those with added cleaners.
- 🐾 **A picture of you and your pet together.** If you become separated from your pet during an emergency, a picture of you and your pet together will help you document ownership and allow others to assist you in identifying your pet. Include detailed information about species, breed, age, sex, color and distinguishing characteristics.
- 🐾 **Familiar items.** Put favorite toys, treats or bedding in your kit. Familiar items can help reduce stress for your pet.



The purpose of this short publication is to inform Monterey County staff about preparedness issues ranging from emerging communicable diseases to personal preparedness. If there is a specific topic you or your staff are interested in please contact the Preparedness Program at [klahnk@co.monterey.ca.us](mailto:klahnk@co.monterey.ca.us).

## Plan for what you will do in an emergency

**Be prepared to assess the situation.** Use whatever you have on hand to take care of yourself and ensure your pet's safety during an emergency. Depending on your circumstances and the nature of the emergency the first important decision is whether you stay put or get away. You should understand and plan for both possibilities. In any 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, shelter-in-place or seek medical treatment, do so immediately.

**Create a plan to get away.** Plan how you will assemble your pets and anticipate where you will go. If you must evacuate, take your pets with you if practical. If you go to a public shelter, keep in mind your animals may not be allowed inside. Secure appropriate lodging in advance depending on the number and type of animals in your care. Consider family or friends willing to take in you and your pets in an emergency. Other 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. Find out before an emergency happens if any of these facilities in your area might be viable options for you and your pets.



**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 you keep your pet's emergency supply kit. Also designate specific locations, one in your immediate neighborhood and another farther away, where you will meet in an emergency.

**Gather contact information for emergency animal treatment.** Make a list of contact information and addresses of area animal control agencies including Animal Services, Humane Society or SPCA, and emergency veterinary hospitals. Keep one copy of these phone numbers with you and one in your pet's emergency supply kit. Obtain "Pets Inside" stickers and place them on your doors or windows, including information on the number and types of pets in your home to alert firefighters and rescue workers. Consider putting a phone number on the sticker where you could be reached in an emergency. And, if time permits, remember to write the words "Evacuated with Pets" across the stickers, should you flee with your pets. "Pets Inside" stickers can be obtained from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals at [aspc.org](http://aspc.org).



**For more information** about planning for your pet's disaster needs visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) or [www.fema.gov/plan/prepare/animals.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/plan/prepare/animals.shtm)

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### Important Numbers:

Monterey County Animal Services: 769-8850  
Salinas Animal Shelter: 758.7285  
King City Veterinary Clinic 385-4878  
Santa Cruz Animal Services Authority 454-7303

SPCA of Monterey County: 373-2631  
City of Marina Animal Shelter 384-2528  
Soledad Los Coches Veterinarian 678-2658  
Veterinary Emergency and Specialty Center 373-7374

This issue of *Preparedness Minute* is brought to you by the Monterey County Health Department's Preparedness Program. For more information Contact:

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