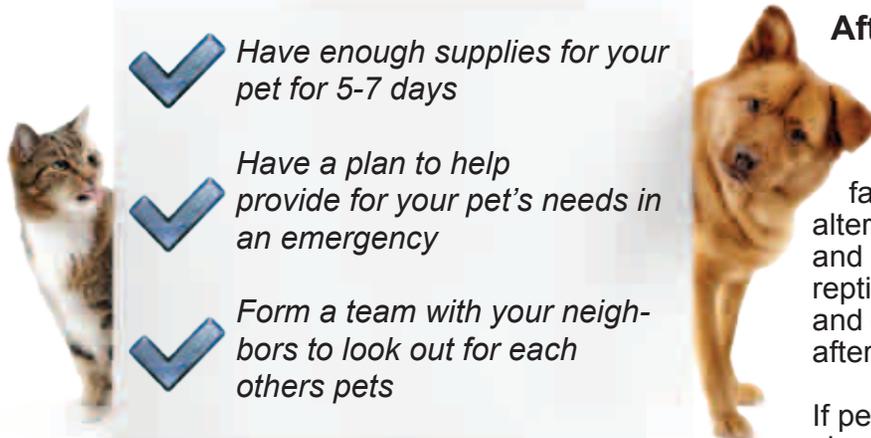


Preparing for Emergencies with your Pet

Being prepared for disasters is important. Having emergency supplies, a plan, and a way to stay informed can help minimize the effects of disaster on you and your family. Preparing for the needs of your pets is an important part of being ready for whatever type of emergency may happen.

Have a Pet Emergency Kit

-  **Food:** At least 5-7 days' worth of food in an airtight, waterproof container. Be sure to bring a bowl for food and water.
-  **Water:** store at least three days of water specifically for your pet
-  **Medicines and medical records:** Keep an extra supply of medicines your pet takes on a regular basis in a waterproof container. Be sure your pet is up to date on all of its vaccinations. If for some reason you have to board your pet at a shelter, your pet must be current on all vaccinations to be admitted.
-  **First aid kit:** Talk to 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.



 *Have enough supplies for your pet for 5-7 days*

 *Have a plan to help provide for your pet's needs in an emergency*

 *Form a team with your neighbors to look out for each others pets*

After the Disaster

After the danger has passed, walk pets on a leash until they become re-oriented with their home - often familiar scents and landmarks may be altered and pets could easily be confused and become lost. Also, downed power lines, reptiles brought in with high water, fire ants and debris can all pose a threat for animals after a disaster.

If pets cannot be found after a disaster, check online sources for lost pets or contact the local animal control office to find out where lost animals can be recovered.

After a disaster, animals can become aggressive or defensive - monitor their behavior.

Be Informed



Having a way to stay informed about emergencies is a key part of being ready for whatever type of disaster may occur.

Take the first step in being informed about emergency conditions in Houston, visit houstontx.gov/emergency and sign up for AlertHouston, the City's Emergency E-mail Notification System.

 **Important documents:** Place copies of your pet's registration information, adoption papers, vaccination documents, including a rabies certificate, as well as information on pet feeding schedules, medical conditions and the name and number of your veterinarian.

 **Crate or other pet carrier:** Having a carrier that is large enough for your pet to stand, turn around and lay down comfortably will greatly assist in their ability to be transported.

 **Sanitation:** Include pet litter, a pan and scoop, newspapers, paper towels, plastic trash bags and household chlorine bleach to provide for your pet's sanitation needs.

 **A way to identify your pet:** If you become separated from your pet during an emergency, a picture of you and your pet together will help you document ownership. Please ensure your pet is microchipped, which greatly increases your chance of being reunited with your pet. Also include a temporary pet I.D. with the contact information for a friend or family member who lives out of the area.

 **Familiar items:** Put favorite toys, treats or bedding in your kit. Familiar items can help reduce stress for your pet.

Have a Pet Emergency Plan

Consider what you and your family will do with your pet if an emergency occurs. Use common sense and be prepared to evacuate or to stay in place, depending on the nature of the emergency.

Never leave your pets behind in an emergency. Remember: if it isn't safe for you – it isn't safe for your pet.

Plan to Stay

If an emergency requires that you stay in place for a long period of time, be sure to have what your pet needs.

Be sure to bring pets indoors well in advance of a storm and be sure to reassure them and remain calm during the storm.

Also, ensure that you have a plan for ensuring your pets safety, remembering that after an emergency, dangerous debris may be present.

Talk with family, friends and neighbors about your emergency plan, and develop a buddy system with a friend or neighbor, to help you meet your pet's needs if you are unable to return home to care for them in an emergency.

Plan to Evacuate

If an emergency requires you to evacuate – be sure to have a plan for what you will do with your pet:

Ensure that you have a place to go that will accept pets, and a list of multiple places where you can seek shelter for your pet.

If you evacuate to a shelter, unless your pet is a service animal, you and your pet may be housed in different parts of the shelter.



Talk with your veterinarian to see if they have recommendations for places you can seek shelter in neighboring communities, this may include veterinary hospitals, pet-friendly hotels, or animal shelters.

For more information on what you and your family can do to prepare for emergencies, visit the City of Houston Office of Emergency Management website at houstonoem.org.

Visit houstonbarc.com for more information and tips on taking care of your pet in an emergency.



BARC
ANIMAL SHELTER
& ADOPTIONS

*We are BARC.
We Care Deeply
About Animals.*



*Be prepared.
Be informed.
Be ready.*

City of Houston

BARC Animal Shelter & Adoptions
3200 Carr
Houston, Texas 77026
Phone: 311
houstonbarc.com

Office of Emergency Management
5320 N Shepherd Drive
Houston, Texas 77091
Phone: (713) 884-4500
houstonoem.org

Are You Ready?

Are They?



Preparing for Emergencies with your Pets

