

# Emergencies Happen



Will You Be Prepared?

## Be Prepared With A Disaster Plan

How can you get started with emergency preparedness?

Start by thinking of the types of disasters that you might encounter.

Develop a general family disaster plan. The American Red Cross provides excellent courses for this and has brochures that will help you and your family in developing and exercising your plan. Be sure to add specific plans for your pets.

Practice evacuation of your family and pets until you can evacuate within a few minutes. Everybody in your family should participate, including your pets.

Decide on a place where your family will meet if you get separated.

Determine the best room in the house to leave your pets if you must evacuate without your pets. This may vary with the type of pets you own and the disaster event.

Make arrangements for pet care with neighbors, family, and friends. Make sure they have keys to your house, and leave information of where you will be, how you can be reached, which rooms the animals may be located, and how to care for the pets in your absence.

Think of whom you would phone outside your area. Often people cannot phone into a disaster zone, but it is possible to phone out. An out-of-state contact can help relay information and keep your family connected.

## Response

Stay calm and assess the situation.

Never put yourself or others at risk. Do not attempt to rescue your pet if your life or health or that of others may be placed in danger.

Crate your cat or dog immediately. If you do not, your pet may sense danger. This will make them want to hide and make it more difficult to retrieve.

Listen to the emergency alert system for instructions on what you should do and whether special arrangements have been made for people with pets. Follow these guidelines and incorporate them into your actions.

In some situations, circumstances may force you to leave your pet behind. Leaving your pet behind should be done only as a last resort.

Never leave your pet tied up outside or let them loose to fend for themselves.

Do not leave unfamiliar foods or treats for your pets. They may overeat which leads to intestinal problems. Provide water in a heavy bowl that cannot be tipped over.

Paste labels clearly for rescue workers to see what animals they will encounter, how many, and how they can contact you or somebody familiar with how to care for them.



Will You Be Prepared in an Emergency?



## Our Mission Statement

C.A.R.T. of Camden County is committed to providing safe shelter, care and emotional comfort to animals displaced by disaster in order to alleviate their suffering and that of their human companions.

Be Prepared for Disasters:

\*Get a Kit

\*Make a Plan

\*Be Informed

Contact: [CamdenCountyCART@gmail.com](mailto:CamdenCountyCART@gmail.com)

## Know What to do as a Disaster Approaches

Often, warnings are issued hours, even days, in advance. At the first hint of disaster, act to protect your pet

Check to be sure your pet disaster supplies are ready to take at a moment's notice

Bring all pets into the house so that you won't have to search for them if you have to leave in a hurry

Make sure all dogs and cats are wearing collars and they are securely fastened, verify that up-to-date identifications are clearly visible

You may not be home when the evacuation order comes. Find out if a trusted neighbor would be able to assist you in taking your pets and meeting you in a prearranged location. This person should be comfortable with your pets, know where to locate them, know where your pet disaster supplies kit is kept, and have a key to your home.

Planning and preparation will enable you to evacuate with your pets quickly and safely. But bear in mind that animals react differently under stress. Outside your home and in the car, keep dogs securely leashed. Transport cats in carriers. Don't leave animals unattended anywhere they can escape and run. Even the most trustworthy pets may panic, hide, try to escape, or bite and scratch. And, when you return home, give your pets time to settle back into their routines. Consult your veterinarian if any behavior problems persist.

## Assemble a Portable Pet Disaster Supplies Kit

Whether you are away from home for a day or a week, you'll need essential supplies. Keep items in an accessible place and store them in sturdy containers that can be carried easily. Your pet disaster supplies kit should include:

Medications and medical records (stored in a waterproof container) and a first aid kit

Sturdy leashes, harnesses, and/or carriers to transport pets safely and ensure that your animals can't escape

Current photos of your pets in case they get lost

Food, potable water, bowls, cat litter/pan, and can opener

Information on feeding schedules, medical conditions, behavior problems, and the name and number of your veterinarian in case you have to foster or board your pets

Pet beds and toys, if easily transportable

Paper towels, plastic bags, and spray disinfectant for animal waste cleanup

## Accustom your pets to sudden actions as would be needed in a disaster

Train your dog. Obedience may save its life during an emergency and help to make it a welcome guest in an emergency shelter

Familiarize your pet with its transport crate/carrier before a crisis

Familiarize your pet with being transported. You can practice drills with your pet by getting it used to riding with you in your car.

Cats can be very difficult to catch when they are stressed or afraid. Practice catching and transporting your cat in a carrier and carrying it around the house.



Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so plan how you will contact one another and review what you will do in different situations.

Consider a plan where each family member calls or emails the same friend or relative in the event of an emergency.

It may be easier to make a long distance phone call than to call across town, so an out of town contact may be in a better position to communicate among separated family members. Be sure each person knows the phone number and has coins or a prepaid phone card to call the emergency contact. You may have trouble getting through, or the phone system may be down altogether, but be patient.

## Your Pet's Health

To minimize ill health effects of a disaster, make sure that:

Your pet's vaccinations are current. Most vaccinations are repeated yearly. Rabies is repeated every three years in most species, but may be required yearly depending on the type of vaccine and state requirements

Keep copies of your pet's vaccinations, health and ownership records in your disaster kit

## Join Our Team

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Sign up for: (choose all that apply)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Animal Care Team            | <input type="checkbox"/> Communications                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Veterinary Team             | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer/ Foster Care Team      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative/ Office Help | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Awareness/ Fundraising |



Contact:

Camden County Animal Response Team



Email: CamdenCountyCART@gmail.com