Pet Preparedness

A significant number of families have pets and they’re part of the family. They need to be ready for a disaster too; take simple steps now so they’re prepared.

How to Prepare Before a Disaster

- Not all shelters will accept pets, plan in advance for shelter options that will work for both you and your pets.
- Develop a buddy system with neighbors or friends to make sure that someone is available to care for your pets if you are unable to do so.
- Assemble an emergency kit for your pet.

What Goes in Your Pet Emergency Kit:

- Food and water (3 days) bowls, manual can opener
- Medicines, medical records, and first aid kit
- Collar with ID tag, harness, or leash (include backups)
- Crate or pet carrier
- A picture of you and your pet together
- Important documents: registration & vaccination
- Familiar items: favorite toys, treats, and bedding
- Plastic bags/litter for cleaning up after your pet

What to Do During a Disaster

- Bring your pet inside immediately.
- Separate dogs and cats. Anxiety may affect their behavior.
- Feed them moist or canned food so they will need less water to drink.
- Have extra newspapers, for sanitary reasons.

This information is only a portion of what you need to be prepared; for more information and resources, visit Ready.gov and FEMA.gov.