

## Find a Safe Place Ahead of Time

Evacuation shelters will NOT accept pets except for service animals with certification papers. Make a list of pet-friendly places outside your immediate area. List friends, motels, boarding facilities, and veterinary offices that might be able to shelter animals.

## Identification

License your dogs. Besides legal issues, there are advantages if your pet is turned in to the County Shelter. Microchip animals, including indoor cats. Keep all information on tags current. If you or your emergency contacts move, update information with the agencies. Your emergency contacts should be far enough away that a disaster affecting you is unlikely to be affecting their homes and phone service.

## Vaccinations

Keep them current and keep proof in emergency kit. Boarding places require proof of vaccination status.

*Emergency shelters will often revaccinate on entry without proof.*

## Prepare Pet for Being Crated.

Crate train before disaster strikes. Have crates ready to take with you.

## In Case You're Not Home

Make arrangements with a neighbor who is home much of his/her time or within work walking distance. Select another neighbor for backup. These people should be comfortable with your pets, know where the emergency **Go-Kit** is located, have a key, and know the phone number of friend or relative of yours outside the immediate area.

## Shelter Training

Contra Costa CART provides training each year for volunteers willing to be called upon in a disaster. The intent is so that a temporary small animal shelter can be established near a human shelter. In the event that horse or livestock shelters need to be provided due to a flood or wild-land fire, specialized large animal shelter training is required. Contact:

Contra Costa CART is under the umbrella of Contra Costa County Animal Services

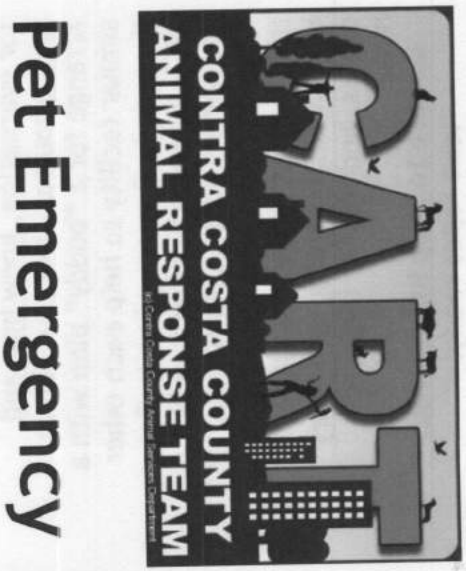


**ANIMAL SERVICES**  
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

**Martinez Shelter**  
4800 Imhoff Place  
Martinez, CA 94553  
(925) 335-8300

**Pinole Shelter**  
910 San Pablo Ave.  
Pinole, CA 94564  
(510) 374-3966

**Hours for Both:**  
Tues-Sat: 10a-5p  
Weds: 10a-7p  
Sun-Mon: Closed  
Major Holidays: Closed



# Pet Emergency Planning

For Local / Regional Disasters as well as Personal Emergencies



## Typical Emergency Go-Kit

- 1 Important Papers, protected in plastic: COPY of county license number, PROOF of vaccinations, MICROCHIP manufacturer & number, RECENT photo WITH you/ family, BRIEF description of pet's allergies, any medical issues/ personality quirks, LIST of emergency numbers (vet, home phone address, your emergency buddy)
2. Harness, Leash & Muzzle
3. Food for 7 days (plus a can opener if needed)
4. Medications and directions
5. Water dish & bottled water
6. Stake out and line
- 7 Calming medication
8. Plastic poo bags for clean-up / litter and pan, garbage bag
9. Booties to protect feet or wounds
10. Familiar comfort items (toys, blanket, treats)
- 11 Crate for transport

## Typical Pet First-Aid Kit

- 1 Pet First Aid Book
2. Scissors, tweezers, syringe or eye-dropper, cleaning pads
3. Medications (heart worm/ flea/ prescriptions)
4. Saline solution (to rinse wounds and eyes)
5. Liquid dish detergent (a mild wound cleanser, use sparingly)
6. Isopropyl alcohol prep pads
- 7 Gauze rolls and non-adherent pads
8. Antibiotic ointment (wounds)
9. Bandage tape
10. Elastic bandage rolls (vet wrap) or ace bandage
- 11 Benadryl (break capsule/rub on gums 1 mg. per lb., max 2 x/day)
12. Bubble wrap/newspaper (for splints)
13. Antidiarrheal/ Pepto-Bismol (NOT for cats)

## Disaster Description

A disaster may be personal, relating only to you such as an accident or a major illness.

OR

It might be a neighborhood or regional event such as a fire, flood, earthquake, pandemic, chemical spill.

## After the Disaster

For a few days, don't allow your pets to roam loose. Familiar landmarks and smells might be gone; a pet can become disoriented and easily lost.

Be ready for behavioral problems that result from the stress of the situation. Get back to normal routine as soon as possible.

## If Your Pet is Lost

- 1 Visit each shelter in your area once every other day. Take a current photo with you.
2. Create a flyer with pet's photo and full description; your pet's name, your name, and phone number. Post it in adjoining neighborhoods as well as your own.
3. Post flyer in Veterinary offices and pet stores.
4. Put ad in newspapers for several weeks.
5. Continue to search. It's not uncommon for people to be reunited with pets weeks, or even months after they are lost.

A microchip just might turn out to be your pet's ticket home!

## Animals

(*other than cats & dogs*)

A supply of food, a Go-Kit and other equipment necessary for the care of all animals should be kept in preparation for evacuation or for easy pickup by an assigned caretaker

### Bird Cages & Aquariums

Secure hanging cages so they won't swing or fall. Tighten the latch on the bird cage so the door can't be shaken open. Remember, birds must eat daily to survive.

Secure aquariums on low tables.

Keep a container with a lid to transport fish if necessary and be sure instructions are in their Go-Kit.

### Small Mammals & Reptiles

These animals should be transported in secure carriers suitable for them to remain in while out of the home.

## Horses

Make arrangements ahead of time for evacuation, know how and where you can take your horses. Arrange for a "buddy" plan with a similar facility to help each other if needed. Prepare a handy Go-Kit including a basic first aid kit, the horse's name, your name with emergency phone numbers, and then in a watertight envelope identification photos, veterinary papers, and a list of medical needs.

Be sure to keep halters with lead ropes ready.

# Making an Evacuation Kit for Your Cat

Veterinary & Aquatic Services Department, Drs. Foster & Smith

## Food and Water

- Food: Two weeks supply; place dry food in airtight containers (rotate every 3 months)
- Usual treats (rotate every 3 months)
- Water: Two weeks supply of water (store in dark place, rotate every 2 months). Estimate a quart a day.
- Food and water dishes
- Spoons and can opener if necessary

## Restraint and Identification

- Extra collars or harnesses with tags (identification tag, rabies tag, license)
- Leashes, including a nylon slip leash
- Towels
- Muzzle
- Thick leather gloves (in case your cat is injured or very afraid)
- Pet life preserver (if in a flood zone)
- Cat carrier with the following information indelibly printed: your name; phone number; address; a description of your cat (distinguishing marks, age, breed, sex, spayed, neutered, etc.); the name of your cat; microchip ID or tattoo ID, if any; pet insurance policy number and the address and phone number where you or a contact person can be reached if you are not at home
- Recent photographs with the same information that is on the cat carrier printed on the back (keep in a waterproof container e.g., inside several ziplock bags). Include yourself in some of the photos to help you reclaim your pet, should he become lost.
- Wire, pliers, and duct tape (to repair cat carrier)

## Sanitation

- Small litter pan, litter and scoop
- Newspaper
- Paper towels
- Dish soap
- Disinfectant
- Garbage bags
- Plastic bags for holding waste (two weeks supply)

## Care and Comfort

- Blanket
- Toys
- Hot water bottle
- Flashlight and batteries
- Grooming supplies
- Dental cleaning supplies
- Feliway (spray product that helps reduce anxiety in cats)

## Records and Medications (store in a waterproof container)

- Vaccination certificates
- List of phone numbers:
  - Your veterinarian
  - List of secondary veterinarians
  - "Pet-friendly" motels
  - Boarding facilities (Red Cross shelters do not allow animals)
  - Emergency clinic(s)
  - Database centers if your cat is tattooed or has a microchip
  - Animal poison control center(s)
  - Animal shelters in your area (in case you get separated from your pet)
- Pet insurance policy number
- Copies of proof of ownership papers (registration information, adoption papers, proofs of purchase, and microchip/tattoo information to store in the evacuation kit). List each of your animals and their species/breed, age, sex, color and other distinguishing characteristics.
- Medical records and/or list of medical needs, if your cat has a medical condition or is on medication
- Two weeks supply of medication and any supplements (include at least one dose of your monthly heartworm preventive) in a waterproof container (rotate every two months); have chemical ice packs and a small, insulated cooler if medication needs refrigeration
- If your cat is taking medication regularly, include that information on a separate ID tag
- First aid kit

A large plastic tub or garbage can with a lid can be used to store these disaster preparedness items for your cat. Tape a copy of this list to the inside of the cover for future reference. Include a calendar indicating when certain items should be/were replaced.

In addition to the items listed above, include anything you use for your cat on a weekly or monthly basis. A good idea is to collect all the materials for your disaster preparedness kit, and then experiment by using only those items to care for your cat the next two weeks. That way, you will easily find out if you need to include other items, or a larger quantity of certain things.

# Making a First Aid Kit for Your Cat

Since you never know when an accident will happen, keeping a pet emergency kit at your home is a good idea. A smaller kit could be used in the car. You can put a first aid kit together yourself and buy the items separately, or buy one ready-made. If you make one yourself, use a small plastic tub with a tight fitting lid to store the following items:

## Important Phone Numbers

- Veterinary clinic phone number and directions to the clinic
- Emergency clinic phone number and directions
- Poison control center phone numbers

## Equipment and Supplies

- Muzzle
- Magnifying glass
- Scissors
- Tweezers
- Nail clippers and metal nail file
- Styptic powder or sticks, Kwik Stop, or cornstarch
- Penlight
- Eye dropper or oral syringe
- Feeding tubes of various sizes if you are trained in how to use them
- Cotton swabs
- Cotton balls
- Clean towels cloth and paper
- Rectal thermometer
- Lubricant such as mineral oil or KY Jelly (without spermicide)
- Disposable gloves
- Syringes of various sizes
- Needle-nose pliers or *hemostats*
- Grease-cutting dish soap
- Bitter Apple or other product to discourage licking
- Pet carrier
- Towel or blanket to keep your cat warm during transport (some pharmacies and camping outlets carry a thermal blanket)
- Cold packs and heat packs (wrap in towel before using)
- Stethoscope

## Bandaging Materials

- Square gauze of various sizes some sterile
- Non-stick pads
- First aid tape - both paper (easily comes off of skin) and adhesive types
- Bandage rolls gauze and Vetwrap
- Band-Aids (for humans)

## Nutritional Support

- Rehydrating solution such as Gatorade or Pedialyte
- Nutritional supplement such as Nutri-Cal, Vitacal, or Nutristat
- High sugar source: Karo syrup

## Medicines\*

- Wound disinfectant such as Betadine or Nolvasan
- Triple antibiotic ointment for skin
- Antibiotic ophthalmic ointment for eyes, e.g., Terramycin
- Eye wash solution
- Sterile saline
- Antidiarrheal medicine such as Pet Pectate (be sure it does not contain salicylates)
- Cat laxative in paste form (e.g., Doctor's Foster & Smith Hairball Remedy, Laxatone)
- Diphenhydramine (Benadryl) for allergic reactions (obtain dose from your veterinarian)
- Cortisone spray or cream, such as Itch Stop
- Ear cleaning solution
- Hydrogen peroxide (used to make a cat vomit only use as directed by a veterinarian)
- Activated charcoal to absorb ingested poisons (consult your veterinarian before using)

\*Watch the expiration dates on any medication, and replace as needed.