

Disaster Preparedness for Your Pets

Georgia's counties are vulnerable to all types of emergencies, including, but not limited to winter storms, tornadoes, wildfires, tropical storm force winds, tropical storms, hurricanes, hurricane coastal evacuations, flooding, severe thunderstorms, downburst wind, hazardous material releases and acts of terrorism.

Disasters disrupt hundreds of thousands of lives every year and have lasting effects, both to people and property. If a disaster occurs in your community, local government and disaster-relief organizations will try to help you, but you need to be prepared as well. Take the time to make a disaster plan and assemble an emergency kit for you and your pet.

Emergency kits for your pets should include:

- Photocopies of medical records, veterinarian contact information and a waterproof container with a two-week supply of any medicine your pet requires (Remember, food and medications need to be rotated out of your emergency kit—otherwise they may go bad or become useless.)
- Pet first-aid kit and guide book (ask your vet what to include)
- Recent photos of your pets (in case you are separated and need to make "Lost" posters)
- 3-7 days' worth of canned (pop-top) or dry food (be sure to rotate every two months)
- Manual can opener for canned food
- Paper towels/wet wipes
- Liquid dish soap and disinfectant
- Disposable garbage bags for clean-up
- Disposable gloves
- Pet feeding dishes
- Extra harness and leash (Note: harnesses are recommended for safety and security)
- Bottled water, at least 7 days' worth for each person and pet (store in a cool, dry place and replace every two months)
- A traveling bag, crate or sturdy carrier with bedding, ideally one for each pet
- Grooming supplies
- Blanket (for scooping up a fearful pet)
 - Especially for cats: Pillowcase or EvackSack, toys, scoop-able litter and disposable litter trays (aluminum roasting pans are perfect)
 - Especially for dogs: Long leash and yard stake, toys and chew toys, a week's worth of cage liner.
- A collar with identification and rabies tag on pet
- Your emergency contact information