Emergencies strike without warning. Don’t be caught off-guard. Make sure that you have a disaster preparedness plan in place for your family and for your pets. By planning ahead, you can make any type of emergency or evacuation run smoothly.

**Small Animals**
**Use Rescue Alert Stickers**
Sometimes emergencies happen when you aren’t home. In these instances, a rescue window sticker will let the emergency services know that pets are inside your home. Place stickers on front and back house doors/windows, barn or kennel doors, or pasture entrances. It should be easily visible and include:

- the type and number of pets located inside
- the name and phone number of your veterinarian

Also make sure your pets have identification on them, including rabies and license tags. If your pet is microchipped, make sure that you have registered their microchip number and your current contact information with a national recovery database in case of separation.

**Take Your Pets With You**
In the event of an emergency which requires evacuation, have a plan in place that allows you to take your pets with you. Do not leave your pets behind. Remember, if it isn’t safe for you, it isn’t safe for your pets. They may become trapped or escape and be exposed to numerous life-threatening hazards. If you will be heading to a place that you cannot take your pets during an emergency, you should:

- Contact your veterinarian for a list of preferred boarding kennels and facilities.
- Ask your local animal shelter if they provide emergency shelter or foster care for pets.
- Identify hotels or motels outside of your immediate area that accept pets.
- Ask friends and relatives outside your immediate area if they would be willing to take in your pet.

**Emergency Supplies and Traveling Kits**
Create an evacuation supply kit for your pets, and make sure everyone in your household knows where it is located. The kit should be clearly labeled and easy to carry in an emergency. Items you might want to include in your kit are:

- Pet first-aid kit
- 3-7 days’ worth of canned or dry food (be sure to rotate every two months to keep fresh)
- Disposable litter trays (aluminum roasting pans work well)
- Litter or paper towels
- Liquid dish soap and disinfectant
- Garbage bags
- Food dishes
- Extra leash and/or harness
- Photocopies of veterinary and vaccination records in a waterproof container with a two week supply of any medication your pet requires (Remember, food and medications need to be rotated out of your emergency kit—otherwise they may go bad or become useless.)
- Proof of ownership. Make copies of registration information, adoption papers, proof of purchase, and microchip information to store in the evacuation kit. List each one of your animals and their species, breed, age, sex, color, and distinguishing characteristics.
- 7 days’ worth of bottled water for each pet (store in a cool, dry place and replace every two months)
- Travel bag, crate or sturdy carrier, ideally one for each pet
- Flashlight
- Blanket
- Recent photos of your pets
- Especially for cats: Pillowcase or EvackSack, toys, scoopable litter
- Especially for dogs: Long leash and yard stake, toys and chew toys, a week’s worth of cage liner.

In addition to the pet-specific items in your emergency kit, it should also contain batteries, duct tape, flashlight, radio, multi-tool, tarp, rope, permanent marker, spray paint, baby wipes, protective clothing and footwear, extra cash, rescue whistle, important phone numbers, extra medication and copies of medical and insurance information.

**Equine/Livestock**
Equine/livestock evacuation can be challenging. Develop an evacuation plan and make sure that animals are familiar with being loaded onto a trailer. Premises with facilities that are specifically designed to load and handle livestock will be much more successful in evacuating and relocating livestock. Locate and prearrange an evacuation site for your animals outside your immediate area.

Possible sites include:
- veterinary or land grant colleges
- racetracks
- show grounds
- pastures
- stables
- fairgrounds
- equestrian centers
- livestock corrals
- stockyards or auction facilities
- other boarding facilities

If you do not have enough trailers to transport all of your animals to an evacuation site quickly, contact neighbors, local haulers, farmers,
producers, or other transportation providers to establish a network of available and reliable resources that will provide transportation in the event of a disaster.

For cattle, if an individual animal is or has been medically treated and is still under a withdrawal period, a treatment record must be maintained. The record must include animal’s ID or group ID, date of treatment/s, the drug used and the drug manufacturer’s serial or lot number, dosage of drug administered, route and location of administration, and the person administering the drug. The earliest date the animal could clear the withdrawal period for the administered drug should also be listed.

**List of Important Emergency Contacts**

Prepare this list now before a disaster strikes. Include addresses and 24-hour contact numbers, if available. These contacts can be used by rescue personnel responding to a disaster affecting your animals or by you during a disaster or an evacuation. Keep one copy near your telephone and one copy in your animal evacuation kit.

Your list should include:
- Numbers where you may be reached (pager, cell phone, work phone)
- Your prearranged evacuation site
- Local contact person in case of emergency when you are not available
- Out-of-state contact person
- Your veterinarian’s name, clinic name, and phone numbers
- Alternate veterinarian (30-90 miles away, provides boarding)
- Boarding facility (local)
- Boarding facility (30-90 miles away)
- Hotels that allow pets (90 mile radius)
- Local Animal Control
- Local Police Department
- Local Fire Department
- Local Public Health Department
- Local animal shelter
- Local Red Cross chapter
- Local humane society
- Local Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA)
- List of internet “lost and found” animal sites