

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS GUIDE

FOR PET SITTERS

Developed by National Association of Professional Pet Sitters

Disaster Preparedness Committee

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I. FOREWORD

We typically think of disasters as cataclysmic events such as floods, hurricanes, or earthquakes. Although we all like to think, "It will never happen to me," disasters can strike anyone at any time. It is estimated that the United States suffers more than 150,000 household fires; 10,000 violent thunderstorms; 5,000 floods; 800 tornadoes; many forest fires and several hurricanes and earthquakes every year. Each year, two to three million people are affected by disasters. Many of these people own animals and must provide care for their animals and themselves. Disasters can strike quickly and unannounced.

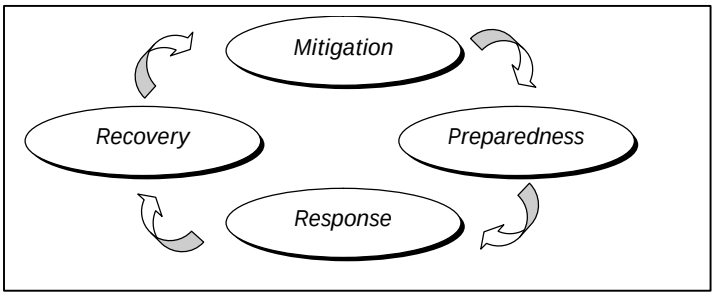
Often you cannot prevent a disaster from occurring, but *you can* reduce the impact of a disaster. A little planning may mean the difference in preventing the suffering many pets, pet sitters, and pet owners might otherwise experience. It can even be the difference between life and death. You and the pets will need shelter, water, and food, should a sudden disaster strike. Undoubtedly, the aftermath of a disaster will bring stress to pets, owners, and yourself (And you should be prepared for this also).

Part of being a professional in any endeavor is to be prepared for possible emergency situations affecting your business and your clients. You are ultimately responsible for the survival and well being of you and your customers' pets. The purpose of this plan is to assist NAPPS members in meeting that responsibility. The plan will help you prepare for, mitigate, respond and recover from both natural and man-made disasters.

We encourage you to use this guide to develop your own emergency response plan, and in turn, encourage your clients to have readily accessible kits with provisions for families and pets.

II. FOUR PHASES OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), there are four main stages of disaster management: Mitigation, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery.



1. MITIGATION

Preventing lost pets in a disaster:

With unfamiliar sounds, smells and sights that follow a disaster, pets can easily become confused and get lost.

- Inform your customers that dogs and cats should wear appropriate identification at all times.
- Pet Identification Form (Appendix 1) is highly recommended for each pet in the household.
- Take pictures of each pet in your care – they will come in handy if the customer doesn't have recent pet photos for identification after the disaster.
- Always ask your customers about their pets' favorite hiding places – the chaos accompanying disaster usually leads them to these places of comfort.

2. PREPAREDNESS

Develop an emergency plan and practice it

How can you get started with emergency preparedness? The following are some guidelines for a successful preparedness plan. You should start by thinking of the possible disasters that could hit your area.

- Develop an Emergency Procedures Agreement (Appendix 5), and have your customer sign it during the initial interview.
- Get at least two neighbor contacts in case you cannot get to the house to care for the pets.
- Require your customer to supply a Disaster Kit (Appendix 2), and know where it is located.
- Be familiar with local disaster plans – county, state, etc.
- Inquire about the owner's disaster plan.
- Create a personal kit to keep in your car.
- Know where extra crates can be found.
- Record the pet's microchip number.
- Know where pet pictures are (or have your own).
- Determine who the owner's out of town contact is.
- Know what kind of care the owner would want taken with his/her pet in case of medical emergency.
- Have a list of places where you can take pets in case of emergencies.
- Store extra crates in your home in case you need to accommodate additional pets (they can often be found very cheap in garage sales).
- Develop a network of other pet-friendly businesses in your area to help you in case of an emergency:
    - Red Cross Chapter - Disaster Chairperson/President -- Although they do not usually take in animals
    - City/County/State Administration
    - Law Enforcement Agency - Police, Sheriff
    - Fire Department
    - Local Veterinarians
    - Livestock Association/Group(s)
    - Farm Bureau Chapter
    - Horsemen's Association
    - Kennel Club
    - Other Humane Groups/Animal Control Department(s)
    - Boarding Kennels
    - Boarding Stables
    - Fairgrounds/Rodeo Grounds
    - Local pet sitting network
    - Determine whether you will need special advance identification and authorization to have

access to the disaster area in order to fulfill your plan

- The care of birds in disasters requires special consideration – see Appendix 4.

3. RESPONSE

Several actions will help ensure a safe response to a disaster.

- Stay calm and assess the situation.
- Never put yourself or others at risk. Do not attempt to rescue pets if your life or health or that of others may be placed in danger.
- Crate pets immediately. If you do not, the pets may sense danger. This will make them want to hide and they may become more difficult to catch and crate.
- Listen to the emergency alert system on your radio or television 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.
- If a pet has been exposed to chemicals, get information on how to handle it without harming yourself. You should have identified sources of veterinary care and other information in your emergency plan.
- ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center is the best resource for any animal poison-related emergency, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Their number is (888) 426-4435. A $50 consultation fee may be applied to your credit card.

IF YOU EVACUATE YOUR CUSTOMERS' PETS:

You will need a lot of help from other pet sitters (for example your employees or independent contractors), friends, family members, etc. to help evacuate a large amount of animals. During evacuation, you will use your client's Disaster Kit. Make sure you have arrangements with other people if you need more than one vehicle for the evacuation. Have all arrangements made regarding where you are taking the pets. Make sure all the pets are secure in their crates while you are evacuating them.

IF YOU DON'T EVACUATE BUT ONLY SECURE PETS ON THE CLIENT'S PROPERTY:

Each pet needs to be secured in its kennel and moved to the safest area of the home. If you can cover the kennel with something that is waterproof, do it. Otherwise, use a blanket or anything that will add more security to the kennel. If you can, put the kennel under something heavy like a large table or under a stairwell. Put the pets in a secure location in the home and possibly turn on the radio to soft soothing music – this seems to help the animals feel more comfortable. Drawn drapes also give a feeling of security.

Have identification with you and get acquainted with local emergency personnel before an emergency arises so that if you need to enter a home to rescue a pet they don't think you are a looter. If you work in a small area, you can stop by the firehouse or precinct and introduce yourself. If you are out and around enough, the police will recognize your car and license number.

4. RECOVERY

When the disaster has passed, it is not uncommon to find that once familiar surroundings have been rearranged. Pets that rely on visual and olfactory (scent) cues may become disoriented.

- Check all of your clients' homes for damage. If there is damage that could affect the safety of the pets, remove them to a safe location until you can contact the owners to discuss the arrangements

with the pets. Depending on the time frame, this could be your home or one of several kennels you have already made arrangements with that will take your clients' pets in an emergency.

- Review the Pet Owner's Recovery recommendations regarding pets' treatment after a disaster. Be sure to give an extra treat and lots of TLC. If there is damage to the home, get the pet to safety first and then contact the owner. The owner's return time should be considered when weighing options about how to shelter the pet.
- If your own home is damaged, have prior arrangements with several other pet sitters in the area to have them get your clients' pets and take them to shelter.
- Have plenty of extra animal food and water on hand as their food supply may be destroyed. Have a vet that will be willing to quickly replace prescriptions such as insulin for pets that need them. Have ice on hand as the power may be out and some prescriptions like insulin must be kept cold.
- Have a first aid kit and extra blankets and towels in the car, as the pet may have some injuries and be wet and/or cold depending on the damage to the home. An extra kennel or two and a couple of leashes should also be available in case their kennel is damaged or you cannot get to their leash. If you latch the leash to the kennel, it will be easy to locate both. It is also recommended that you put some of the pet's food in a water proof bag and attach it to the side of the kennel in case they will need it later. This is extremely important if the pet has a prescription diet.

III. TORNADOES AND THUNDERSTORMS

Severe thunderstorm watch	Conditions are right for: • Lightning or damaging winds greater than 58 mph, • Hail that could reach a diameter of 0.75 inches, and • Heavy rain. A thunderstorm watch indicates that you should take action to protect yourself and your pets.
Severe thunderstorm warning	Severe thunderstorms have been sighted in your area. Animals, especially dogs, can often hear thunderstorms before humans and may show this by becoming anxious, hiding, and vocalizing. Horses will sometimes run frantically around their pasture.
Tornado watch	Conditions are right for a tornado to develop and that the sky should be watched.
Tornado warning	A tornado has been sighted or is spotted on radar. Warnings will give the location of the tornado and the area immediately affected by the warning.

There are several steps that you can take to keep yourself and your animals safe during thunderstorms and tornadoes. Preparedness actions are listed below.

Tornado warning networks save many lives each year. Each community in high and moderate risk tornado areas should have a group of volunteer spotters who watch the sky during threatening weather and report signs of a tornado to local emergency management officials, the regional office of the National Weather Service, and local farmers.

- Set your computer and cell phones to notify you if there are severe storm or tornado warnings posted.
- As soon as a tornado warning is issued, you need to begin to secure all of your clients' pets as a tornado warning can quickly become a tornado watch when you will have no time to get all your clients to cover.
- Check on the homes of all your customers if there is time before the storm. Put the pets in a secure location in the home and possibly turn on the radio to soft soothing music. This seems to help the animals feel more comfortable. Drawn drapes also give a feeling of security.
- Tornadoes develop during severe thunderstorms and hurricanes. While not all thunderstorms and hurricanes create tornadoes, the potential is there. During violent weather, stay tuned to a local television or radio station for tornado reports. Have extra batteries and a portable radio in your disaster kit.
- A person or animal struck by lightning will receive a severe electrical shock and may be burned. They will carry no electrical charge and can be handled safely. Give first aid and get emergency medical assistance immediately.
- Victims who appear only stunned or otherwise unhurt may also need appropriate medical attention. Check for burns in people especially fingers and toes next to buckles and jewelry. In animals check areas around collars and leashes.

IV. HURRICANES

Hurricane advisory	Tells where the storm is located, the intensity of wind speeds, and the direction of movement.
Hurricane watch	Issued for a coastal area when there is a threat of hurricane conditions within 24 to 36 hours. In vulnerable areas, actions for protection of life and property should begin at this point. This includes animal evacuations. If you have cats put them in transport cages early on. Cats often sense an approaching storm and search for a hiding spot. However, never depend on behavior changes to indicate the severity of storms.
Hurricane warning	Issued when hurricane conditions are expected in a specified coastal area in 24 hours or less. Hurricane conditions include winds of 74 mph (64 knots) and dangerously high tides and waves. Final actions for protection of life and property should be completed as quickly as possible before high winds and heavy rains arrive.
Storm surge	A dome of water that may cause flooding up to 20 feet above normal sea level along major stretches of coastline where the eye of the hurricane makes landfall. The surge of water is topped by battering waves, and incredibly strong winds. Nine out of 10 hurricane-related fatalities are caused by the storm surge.

Hurricanes usually strike coastal areas, but may also affect inland regions. They begin as tropical depressions (low-pressure center), progress to become tropical storms and finally hurricanes. Tornadoes may develop as a hurricane passes.

- Create client awareness on disaster preparedness for a hurricane.
- When meeting with a new client, insist that they get all the supplies needed for their pets. A Disaster Kit (Appendix 2) needs to be supplied by each customer if they want to receive your pet sitting services.
- Compile instructions on how to prepare for a hurricane. Collect and distribute information on pet friendly hotels/motels/shelters, kennels and veterinary offices with boarding facilities, and grooming shops that can board pets, etc. Contact those places, introduce yourself, and network with them constantly. You will need those people to help you when there is no time for explaining who you are and what you need. As a pet sitter, you might have to board many pets, and you need to know exactly where you are taking them if you have to evacuate them in a short period of time.
- Make sure your clients know what to do during and after the disaster, and they are familiar with your company's disaster plan.
- Compile a list of the exact steps you and your employees or independent contractors will take if a disaster was to strike.
- Provide employee/IC guidelines on what to do during a disaster. Everyone should have specific assigned roles.

V. FLOODS

Floods are classified according to whether they are slow or fast rising. Slow-rising floods are typical as floodwaters move down a river or stream and can often be predicted to reach a certain height.

Flash floods are usually the result of extremely heavy rain or melting snow and occur suddenly. They can also result from a dam or levee failure.

Flash flood watch	Issued when flash flooding is possible within the designated watch area: be alert. Listen to your radio for flood forecasts and prepare for evacuation with your animals.
Flash flood warning	Issued when a flash flood has been reported or is imminent: take necessary precautions.
Flood warning	Issued as an advance notice that a flood is imminent or is in progress at a certain location or in a certain river basin. Take precautions as directed. Start to relocate large animals that are in danger.

Preparing for floods includes actions such as stockpiling and replenishing emergency supplies, planning evacuation routes, and ensuring that equipment and vehicles are in proper working condition.

- During floods, you will want to evacuate pets if you have time (unless it would compromise your safety). Therefore, you must have an Evacuation Plan in place. Collect and distribute information on pet friendly hotels/motels, kennels, veterinary offices with boarding facilities, grooming shops that can board pets, etc. Contact these places, introduce yourself, and network with them constantly. You will need those people to help you when there is no time for explaining who you are and what you need. As a pet sitter, you might have to board many pets, and you need to know exactly where you are taking them if you have to evacuate them in a short period of time.
- The Disaster Kits (Appendix 3) will come in very handy when you have to evacuate pets, so make sure that your customers have those ready for you. This needs to be communicated to the customer during the Initial Interview, so they are prepared for evacuation.
- If you must leave an animal behind, ensure that it always has an easy escape route. Never tie an animal up if floods are pending. Many animals have died during floods when caretakers left them confined.
- If you can't evacuate a pet, make sure it is not trapped in a crate, as this will decrease its chances of survival.
- While evacuating pets, do not drive through flooded streets. If your car stalls while in flowing water, abandon it immediately, taking with you any animals (unless it would compromise your safety). Cars may only serve as traps in the face of a raging flood.
- When entering a customer's home after a flood, open the windows and let it air out for several minutes to remove foul odors or escaped gas before entering. Do not use a match or lantern as a source of light because of the possibility of gas buildup. Make sure not to use any electricity. Open all doors and windows to help dry the building. Do not bring the pets in right away – make sure the house is safe and secure.

VI. WINTER STORMS

Be familiar with winter storm warning messages and program your local weather/radio stations into your cellular phone or keep them on a card with you. You may wish to obtain a NOAA Weather Radio to monitor severe weather. Know how the public is warned (siren, radio, TV, etc.) and the warning terms for each kind of disaster in your community:

Blizzard	The most dangerous of all winter storms. It combines low temperatures, heavy snowfall, and high winds that blow the snow into drifts and reduce visibility.
Heavy snowstorm	Drops four or more inches of snow in a 12-hour period or six or more inches in a 24-hour period. High winds may blow snow into drifts and cause poor visibility.
Ice storm	Occurs when moisture falls from clouds and freezes immediately upon impact. Ice storms can make driving impossible, and even walking extremely hazardous, and can lead to large fallen trees and/or several days without power while downed lines are being repaired.

Winter storm watch	Severe winter weather may affect your area.
Winter storm warning	Severe winter weather conditions are expected.
Ice storm warning	Significant, possibly damaging, ice accumulation is expected.
Heavy snow warning	A snowfall of at least four inches in 12 hours or six inches in 24 hours is expected
Blizzard warning	Large amounts of falling or blowing snow and winds of at least 35 mph are expected for several hours.
Severe blizzard warning	Considerable falling or blowing snow, winds at least 45 mph, and temperatures of 10 F or lower are expected for several hours.
High wind warning	Winds of at least 40 mph are expected to last at least one hour.
Traveler's advisory	Ice and snow are expected to hinder travel but the anticipated weather conditions are not serious enough to require warnings.

Know the signs of typical winter related issues, such as hypothermia, for pets and keep a first aid manual for animals with you or directly with your portable first aid kit.

- You may need to winterize your client's homes if a storm was not planned for during their time away. Consider keeping several gallon containers of fresh bottled water for pets in the event of frozen pipes.
- To keep pipes from freezing:
  - Wrap pipes in insulation or layers of old newspapers.
  - Cover the newspapers with plastic to keep out moisture.
  - Let faucets drip a little to avoid freezing.
  - Know how to shut off water valves.
- If the pipes do freeze, remove any insulation or layers of newspapers and wrap pipes in rags.
- Completely open all faucets and pour hot water over the pipes, starting where they were most exposed to the cold (or where the cold was most likely to penetrate).
- Loss of Power and Heat:
  - Close off any extra rooms in the home by shutting any doors and placing a towel under the door.
  - Close off any drafty areas with towels such as windows or basement doors.
  - Move all animals to the center most room of the home or the highest point (if possible). A room with the thickest carpet and drapes can help to insulate the area as well.

VII. EXTREME HEAT AND WILDFIRES

Extreme heat is defined as temperatures 10 degrees or more above the average high temperature, lasting for several weeks.

- *During wildfire warning, try to evacuate the pets if it doesn't compromise your safety. If animals are left behind, it will decrease their chance for survival.*

Causes of heat stroke or hyperthermia in pets are:

- Being left in parked cars (the most common reason). On a hot day, even with the windows open, a parked automobile can become a furnace in no time, and heatstroke can develop.
- Lack of appropriate shelter for an animal outdoors.
- Animals not acclimated to the heat.
- Excessive exercise in hot and humid weather.

The signs of heat stress in animals are identified below.

- Excessive panting or difficulty breathing.
- Body temperature 104 F or above.
- Collapse.
- Increased heart and respiratory rate.
- Salivation.
- Depression, stupor.

In addition to recognizing the signs of heat stress in animals, follow these guidelines when responding during periods of extreme heat.

- Keep animals in areas where they have access to shade.
- Provide animals with plenty of water. Hosing off an animal periodically will also help to cool it.
- Do not exercise animals when it is especially hot outside, e.g. playing Frisbee, jogging or riding. If you have to work with animals, provide regular rest periods. This allows the body's natural cooling system to work. A few minutes of sweat-free rest every hour will help restore physical and mental energy. Animals often are willing to please their owners to the point of endangering themselves.
- Since dogs don't sweat, dogs must be allowed to pant to dissipate heat. Do not encourage them to carry objects in their mouths if they are hot.
- Do not dress animals with vests, blankets and other clothing-type materials that would prevent them from sweating.
- Animals in cages require special attention because the ventilation may not be very good. Provide caged animals with extra ventilation.
- Provide plenty of fresh cool water for all animals to drink. Offer it in a shady place as some species may not venture into the sun if it is very hot.
- Be sure to provide salt licks for animals that require them regularly.
- Plan several evacuation routes with your animals in case fires block your escape. If you have horses or livestock, make arrangements ahead of time for a place to temporarily relocate them. Fairgrounds, parks, racetracks, large animal shelters, or with family or friends may be options available to you.
- The most common cause of death in fires and in the days afterward are complications from smoke inhalation. All animals exposed to fire should be monitored for smoke inhalation pneumonia. A veterinarian should be consulted immediately for any burn injuries. Burn injuries can be difficult and expensive to treat. They often require intensive care.
- Care must be taken in re-entering burned areas. There may be hot spots that could flare up without warning. Partially burned structures and trees can be very unstable, and may suddenly fall over. Do not tie animals to burned trees. Don't allow animals into areas where there may be ash pits (root systems that have burned underground).
- Debris from burned buildings should be removed before animals re-enter the area. Metal pipes heated during a fire may be coated with toxic residues from the heat damaged galvanized components.

VIII. EARTHQUAKES

Earthquake monitoring is conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and universities throughout the United States. The exact time and place an earthquake will occur still cannot be predicted.

- Since the time and place of an earthquake cannot be predicted, it is important that you as a pet sitter create the earthquake awareness with your customers. Educate your customers on the importance of pets wearing their ID collars and being micro chipped. Make sure your customers keep their pets in an area that would be least affected by an earthquake.
- As a pet sitter, you will most likely deal with the Recovery stage of the earthquake disaster plan. Your main task will be to check on the pets after the earthquake is over.
- Earthquakes can cause damage to buildings, utility lines, bridges, or dams. Water supplies can become contaminated by seepage around broken water mains. Damage to roadways and to other means of transportation may create food and other resource shortages for people and animals if transportation is interrupted.
- If you are unsure of the safety of customers' homes, do not enter until a qualified person has inspected them. Aftershocks may cause additional damage to buildings.
- Check to make sure that fences used to confine animals are intact. If animals have escaped, they will often return to their regular feeding site at mealtime and may be recaptured.
- Keep animals safely confined until debris is removed.
- If you have to open closet or cupboard doors, be careful and watch for falling objects. Immediately clean spilled medicines and potentially harmful materials. Wear gloves when you do this.
- If you live near a coastal area and have experienced or heard of a recent earthquake or volcano, listen to your radio for a tsunami warning.

IX. TSUNAMIS

A tsunami is a series of giant ocean waves produced by a major underwater or coastline disturbance such as an earthquake or volcanic eruption. A series of waves sometimes lasts several hours, with 20 or 30 minutes between waves. Areas thousands of miles from an earthquake can be struck by a resulting tsunami. The waves appear to be normal ocean waves until they approach the coastline, where a gigantic wall of water can build on the ocean surface. Tsunamis reaching heights of more than 100 feet have been recorded.

- During a tsunami warning, you will want to evacuate pets if you have time (unless it would compromise your safety). Therefore, you must have an Evacuation Plan in place. Collect and distribute information on pet friendly hotels/motels, kennels, and veterinary offices with boarding facilities, grooming shops that can board pets, etc. Contact those places, introduce yourself, and network with them constantly. You will need those people to help you when there is no time for explaining who you are and what you need. As a pet sitter, you might have to board many pets, and you need to know exactly where you are taking them if you have to evacuate them in a short period of time.
- The Disaster Kits (Appendix 3) will come in very handy when you have to evacuate pets, so make sure that your customers have those ready for you. This needs to be communicated to the customer during the Initial Interview, so they are prepared for evacuation.
- If you must leave an animal behind, ensure that it always has an easy escape route. Never tie an animal up if floods are pending. Many animals have died during floods when caretakers left them confined.
- If you can't evacuate a pet, make sure it is not trapped in a crate, as it will decrease its chances of survival.
- Compile instructions on how to prepare for an evacuation.

X. VOLCANOES

Volcanoes form where weak spots or breaks in the earth's crust allow the magma to push toward the surface. When the pressure of gas and magma becomes too great, the volcano erupts. Magma may pour through the vent opening in lava flows or shoot into the air as dense clouds of gas and dust (ash) fall. Volcanic eruptions can generate mild to moderate earthquakes, mudflows, flash floods, tsunamis and huge ash clouds that can create intense lightning storms.

Because areas far from the volcano may be affected, you should listen for advisories as to whether your area will be impacted. Warnings include information about the approximate time, place, and extent of the effects as well as the uncertainties involved in making the prediction. Evacuation routes for yourself and your animals should be determined in advance.

- During a volcano warning, you will want to evacuate pets if you have time (unless it would compromise your safety). Therefore, you must have an Evacuation Plan in place. Collect and distribute information on pet friendly hotels/motels, kennels, and veterinary offices with boarding facilities, grooming shops that can board pets, etc. Contact those places, introduce yourself, and network with them constantly. You will need those people to help you when there is no time for explaining who you are and what you need. As a pet sitter, you might have to board many pets, and you need to know exactly where you are taking them if you have to evacuate them in a short period of time.
- The Disaster Kits (Appendix 2) will come in very handy when you have to evacuate pets, so make sure that your customers have those ready for you. This needs to be communicated to the customer during the Initial Interview, so they are prepared for evacuation.
- If you must leave an animal behind, make sure that all doors and windows are tightly shut in the customer's home. Ash is commonly contaminated with heavy metals that are toxic to humans and animals. Confine the pets and try to place them in the area where they have the least chance to be exposed to the ash.
- When entering the customer's home after the volcano eruption, make sure that the house is safe. The ash is actually pulverized rock. A one-inch layer weighs ten pounds per square foot. Ash can clog waterways, reservoirs, and machinery and its weight can cause roofs to collapse.
- Do not attempt to drive in heavy ash fall, it will stir up more ash and clog and stall your vehicle.

Appendix 1. **PET IDENTIFICATION FORM**

Owner's name

Phone #: Home: Cell: Wk:

Address:

Designated Emergency Pet Guardian:

Home # Cell # Work #

Email address

Address

Pet's name: ? Dog ? Cat ? Other

Breed Sex: ? Male ? Female Age:

Spayed/Neutered: ? Yes ? No County Tag ID:

ID Microchip: ? Yes ? No If yes, Microchip #:

Weight Height Eye color Tail

Hair color Hair length

Veterinarian office:

Vet's name: Phone #

Date of last vaccinations

Any medical conditions/allergies?

Any special medications?

General disposition

Is your pet good around children? ? Yes ? No

Is your pet good around dogs? ? Yes ? No

Is your pet good around cats? ? Yes ? No

Specific identifying marks and/or features that would help to ID your pet:

List of people who could identify your pet:

1. Name

Phone

2. Name

Phone

Notes

Staple, glue or tape a recent photo of your pet here

Appendix 2. **DISASTER SUPPLY KIT**

Designated Emergency Pet Guardian: _____

Home # _____ **Cell #** _____ **Work #** _____

Email address _____

Address _____

Secondary Emergency Pet Guardian: _____

Home # _____ **Cell #** _____ **Work #** _____

Email address _____

Address _____

1. Crate or carrier for each pet large enough for the pet to turn around in and cat carriers large enough for a small litter box
2. Pet Identification Forms for each pet with photos attached
3. Collar and leash for all pets (including cats) with id and rabies tags on all collars
4. Vaccination records of each pet
5. 3 week supply of each pets medications
6. Sedatives for pets that frighten easily
7. Disposable litter boxes and scoop
8. Extra Cat litter
9. Plastic bags, paper towels and cleaning supplies
10. 3 week supply of food for each pet
11. Manual can opener
12. Food and water bowls for each pet
13. Supply of drinking water
14. Toys or blankets your pet will find familiar
15. Towels
16. Grooming items
17. Detailed instructions for animal care and rescue workers
18. Copy of emergency numbers and family evacuation plan
19. Copy of veterinarian's information
20. Flashlight and batteries
21. Pet first aid kit: include bandaging material, antiseptic ointment, alcohol, gloves, tweezers, muzzle and gauze
22. List of all hotels accepting pets in the area
23. First Aid books for pets and humans

Appendix 3. **DISASTER PREPAREDNESS QUIZ**

Imagine a police officer knocks at your door and tells you that you have to evacuate and that you only have 30 minutes. Are you prepared?

1. Do you have carriers for all your pets?
   Cardboard carriers are not a good choice since your pet may need to stay confined for extended periods. A plastic kennel, purchased at your local pet store, that is large enough for your pet to stand, turn around, and lie comfortably is appropriate. Ideally, you should have a separate carrier for each of your pets.
2. Can you gather all your pets and put them into carriers in time?
3. Are all your pets wearing collars with id tags as well as rabies tag?
4. Do you have a photo of each pet in case they become lost?
   If you and your pet are separated, you need a photo of you with your pet, in order to claim them at an animal shelter.
5. Do you know where your emergency shelters are? Many shelters will not accept pets. Make sure you know which shelters will allow pets.
6. Do you have your veterinarian's information? To make things easier, in the case of an evacuation, keep all of the records in a large waterproof bag. It will be easiest to remember if you keep it in the carrier that will be used during evacuation.
7. Do you have a copy of your pet's vaccinations? These should be in the waterproof bag.
8. Do you have a 3 week supply of food, water, medications & sedatives? If you feed your pet canned food, make sure you have a can opener if they do not have flip tops.
9. Do you have disposable litter boxes and cleaning supplies?
10. Have you alerted friends and family where you are going?
11. Do you know the evacuation route/s?
12. Do you know what hotels in the evacuation area accept pets?
13. If you have a cell phone, is your charger with you?

Microchips

While dogs and cats wear collars, they can be easily broken or removed. A microchip is a permanent device that can identify your pet in the event that the pet becomes lost or stolen. A microchip is a rice-sized capsule encoded with a unique number. The microchip is painlessly injected (much like a vaccination) between the shoulder blades of a pet. Most pets do not react at all when the chip is inserted. The chip remains inactive until read with a hand held scanner. The scanner reads the microchip to identify the lost pet by sending a low frequency radio signal to the chip that then transmits a code to the scanner. The microchip distributor is then contacted with the identification number encoded on the microchip, which is linked to your personal information. The cost of the microchip differs from brand to brand but usually runs around $25.00, which is well worth the security of your pet and your piece of mind.

If your animal has a microchip, make sure you keep your address and contact information updated with your Vet and the microchip company. Consider including a non-local emergency contact since communication within the local area may become difficult.

Appendix 4. **SPECIAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BIRDS, REPTILES, AND OTHER SMALL ANIMALS**

The care of birds, reptiles, and other small animals in disasters requires special consideration.

Birds:

- Determine if your birds need a continuous supply of power to keep a certain air temperature. Purchase a generator to meet your facilities' needs. Make sure your generator is in good running condition by starting it monthly.
- Make sure you have a sufficient water supply. Large water containers with chlorinated water (10 drops of chlorine bleach to each gallon of water) can be used to store water that prohibits bacterial growth. Store water away from sunlight.
- Aviaries should be equipped with an overhead sprinkler system. This will be very important to minimize smoke inhalation, cool the air and reduce the chance of burn injuries.
- Aviculturists should have enough carriers on hand to evacuate all birds. Many birds will run into their nest boxes during a crisis. Nest boxes should be equipped with quick-release latches and a hinge-type cover over the entrance to enable you to remove the nest box and use it as a pet carrier. Flights should be constructed with easy access into and out of them.
- Birds often require specialty foods. Make sure you know what these are and where you can get them. Although surplus food can often be refrigerated, this may not be possible in a disaster, when the power supply is out.
- If vaccinations are appropriate for your bird, be sure they are up-to-date. Consult your veterinarian to learn which vaccinations are appropriate.
- Birds should be tested and free of psittacosis and tuberculosis. These are serious diseases and are transmissible to many other animals and people.
- Do not leave your birds where they can be exposed to fumes from fires or chemicals. Birds are sensitive to smoke and fumes, and more quickly succumb to smoke than most other animals.
- Check your bird for injury and exposure to chemicals. If you have any concerns about the health of your birds, contact a veterinarian. If you think or know that your bird has been exposed to chemicals, contact your veterinarian before treating it yourself.
- Many avian and exotics will show signs of disease (respiratory, gastrointestinal, etc.) several days after a stressful episode. This is very common in birds. A veterinarian should evaluate any bird showing signs of lethargy, loss of appetite, injury or depression.
- If the bird is bleeding, apply direct pressure with a small piece of cotton cloth until you can get help. Do not remove the cloth as this may start the bleeding again.
- If you have to move to new surroundings, do not remove your bird from its cage. When birds are frightened, they may become aggressive or fly away.
- If electricity is available, many birds benefit from having a heating pad under their cage in times of stress. Blankets placed over the cage can also minimize stress.

Reptiles:

- Snakes can be transported in a pillow case
- Take a sturdy container, a heating pad, and some water for the reptile to soak in

Other small animals:

- Hamsters, gerbils, guinea pigs, rabbits, etc. need to have carriers for transporting. Make sure to bring food that meets their special dietary requirements, and remember to consider their water requirements when calculating your three-week supply.
    - *Always keep exotic pets in separate rooms. Many exotic pets can be very dangerous to disaster personnel and other animals not familiar with them or who encounter them unexpectedly. Leave warnings and handling instructions for all exotics, especially poisonous ones.*

Appendix 5 - **EMERGENCY PROCEDURES AGREEMENT**

Client's Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Business Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

A major natural or man-made disaster could occur at any time, including when you are away and your pets are in our care. This agreement notifies your pet sitter which procedure to follow in case if there was an emergency. Communication systems may not be functional if there is a major disaster so it may not be possible for you to reach your pet sitter

In the event of a major natural or man-made disaster please notify my Primary Pet Guardian (PPG) to take temporary ownership of my pet(s) until such time as the pet sitter can resume the pet sitting assignment. In addition I will identify a Secondary Pet Guardian (SPG) in the disaster supply kit.

PPG Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Business Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

In the event that the PPG or SPG cannot be reached please check which procedure you would like the sitter to follow. Only one box may be checked.

? **Transport Pet(s) To a Local Pet Boarding Facility**

In the case of a disaster, the sitter will make every reasonable effort to secure the house.[1] The pet(s) will be taken to a local secured pet boarding facility or animal hospital, to ride out the storm, where the sitter will continue caring for them if possible. Each pet(s) must have their own crate or carrier, and cats must have a crate or carrier large enough to include a small litter box. Each pet(s) must be up to date on their vaccinations and have copies left with the sitter. If the pet is not up to date a local pet boarding or animal hospital may vaccinate the pet(s) at the owner's expense. It is also possible that a facility would be unable to take your pet in the case if there is no proof of vaccinations. The sitter will attempt to notify the client and the local contact specified on the service agreement. However, in the case of an emergency, local communication infrastructure may not be available. The client will be charged for any additional time that the sitter uses to transport the pet and secure the home as well as a boarding charge from a local pet boarding facility or animal hospital .

? **Pet(s) Remain In Your Home[2]**

In the case of a disaster, the sitter will secure the house to the best of their ability[1]. The pet(s) will be left in your home and the sitter will continue to care for your pet(s). If the weather becomes too bad for driving, the sitter will not return to your home until it is safe to be on the roads. The sitter will attempt to notify the client and the local contact specified on the service agreement. However, in the case of an emergency, local communication infrastructure may not be available. The client will not be charged for any missed visits but will be charged any additional time it takes the sitter to secure the house and clean any messes over their 30 minute scheduled visits. If the sitter is scheduled as an overnight they will only stay in a home that the sitter deems safe. Damage to the house, damage to roads or a presumption that local roads may close before a visit is complete may cause the sitter to make a shorter visit than originally agreed upon. In order for pets to remain in their home, one week's supply of food, water, and medications must be available to the pet sitter before you leave. The location of these items must be specified. Additionally, you must supply a crate or cage where your pet can be confined in case that becomes necessary.

_____ _____

Owner's Signature Date

[1]Primary responsibility for securing the home lies with the homeowner prior to leaving the premises. The pet sitter will not be held accountable for any damage occurring to the home if homeowner has not secured the property properly.

[2] In the event that a mandatory evacuation order is issued the pet sitter may not be able to return and resume visits for an extended period of time.

DISCLAIMER:

NAPPS has prepared this document to assist their members in developing personalized disaster plans to put in place in their businesses. We believe the information provided to be very valuable in preventing, mitigating and responding to many types of disasters. We have great confidence that these procedures properly implemented, are aimed at producing the type of results best hoped for in disaster situations, but make no claim as to the absolute thoroughness for every situation described. There is no guarantee that following these instructions will prevent unfortunate or even fatal outcomes. It is the responsibility of every business or individual to evaluate the thoroughness and level of preparedness they find appropriate for their business.

REFERENCES:

1. Federal Emergency Management Agency, www.fema.org
2. The Humane Society of the United States, www.hsus.org
3. American Humane Society, www.americanhumane.org
4. American Red Cross, www.redcross.org
5. Professional Pet Sitting, www.propetsitting.net