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Emergency

Guidelines for Emergencies and Disasters

SAVING THE WHOLE FAMILY

We've talked a lot about preparedness for the people in your family, but what about the companion pets that many of us have?

Research about the time and effort spent in rescuing animals following a disaster has shown that in rapid on-set disasters 40% of the dogs and 70% of the cats were abandoned by their owners. In a slow on-set disaster where there is much more time to get ready, over 50% of all pets were abandoned. Some thought they would be back shortly and others thought the pets would do just fine by themselves. That isn't the case.



their pets.

- Create a pet emergency/disaster kit where your neighbor can find it.
- If the emergency involves evacuation, make sure the neighbor would be willing to take your pets. Plan to meet at a prearranged location.



If you stay put, stay safe

In situations when sitting out the disaster is the best (or only) option, plan to have on hand all the supplies you'll need for your pets. Then follow these safety guidelines:

- Bring your pets indoors. Keep pets under your direct control; you won't have to spend time trying to find them if you must evacuate. Make sure they are wearing collars and tags. Listen to the radio periodically, and don't let them out until you know it's safe.

Give them a hug.

Be sure and comfort your animals during a disaster. They are frightened too, and having you near to give them a hug will help. It will probably do a lot to help you too. If an animal is not ready to be comforted though, do not force it. This is especially true for cats. Let an animal come to you when it is ready.

Rule one: If it isn't safe for you, it isn't safe for your pets

Evacuate as soon as you are advised to go. And when you evacuate, take your furred and winged family members with you.

Keep your pet safe when you're not home

The best way to keep your pets safe when you can't be with them is to plan ahead:

- Find a trusted, willing neighbor and give them a key to your house. Make sure this person is comfortable and familiar with your pets. You might reciprocate for