

COVID-19 Emergency Preparedness for Pets

During these unprecedented times, it is more important than ever to plan ahead to keep yourself and your pets safe. Follow these tips to make an emergency plan for your pets:

Emergency Boarding

Find a trusted family member or friend to care for pets if someone in your household becomes ill and/or is hospitalized. Make sure that person is comfortable handling your pets. Research and identify potential boarding facilities in the area as well.

Proper Identification

Be sure to keep your pet's microchip registration up-to-date with current contact information. All dogs and cats should wear collars that include current phone numbers.

Prepare an emergency kit for each animal

Stock up on the items you may need during a disaster now so you do not get caught unprepared. Keep crates, food and extra supplies for your pet on hand in case moving them becomes necessary or in the event that you must further reduce social exposure. Below are basic items you should include in your pets' disaster kits.

- **One-week supply of food.** Store it in a water-tight container and rotate it every three months to keep it fresh. If you use canned food, include a spare can opener.
- **One-week supply of fresh water.** If officials declare your household water unfit to drink, it's also unsafe for your pets. Follow American Red Cross guidelines for storing emergency water for your family and your pets.
- **Medication.** Keep a supply of medications with dosages and directions in the kit.
- **Vaccination records.** Keep copies of your records on your mobile phone and in the cloud so that you can access them easily.
- **Pet first aid kit**
- **Carrier or leash for each animal.** Caregivers of multiple cats or other small animals can use an EvacSak, which is easy to store and use for transport.

Resources:

RedRover Pet Disaster Preparedness: [RedRover.org/DisasterTips](https://www.redrover.org/DisasterTips)

Pet Disaster Preparedness: <https://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/emergencies/>