



Victim Services of Waterloo Region

Animals and Disasters

pt. 1/2

In an emergency, having an evacuation plan can help you to keep your family safe and together. When emergency planning, remember to include the furry, feathered and scaly members of your family – your pets. Domesticated animals are not well equipped to survive an emergency on their own, and they need to be taken to safety so that they do not get lost or injured. With some quick planning, you can ensure that your pets will be safe when emergencies strike.

Plan in Advance

1. If you have a dog, buy them a license and make sure they wear their tags! Tags contain all the information your dog will need to get home if found.
2. Carry pictures of your pet. Besides from the benefit of being able to show the world how cute your pets are, having a picture of your pet will help you to prove their identity as a member of your family. It doesn't hurt to carry pictures of the rest of your family for this same purpose!
3. Consider a microchip. The size of a grain of rice, these chips are imbedded under the skin of your pet. While watching the procedure will make you feel guilty, your pet will likely have very little reaction to the injection, and you will feel better knowing that your pet will be identifiable if they lose their tags. Perfect for animals that are not licensed, such as cats, the procedure will also save you money on your dog license and pet health insurance. Talk to your vet for more details.
4. Make a care package. When planning for humans in times of disaster, we want to make sure that their basic needs are met – food, clothes, medicine etc. When you pack a bag for yourself and your family, remember to include your pets. You will need their identification (eg. collars), any medications they take, the contact information for their vet, a blanket, a leash and harness (if needed), a seatbelt harness for dogs, three or more days worth of pet food, bottled water, their vaccination/medical records, a coat or sweater (if it is winter and your pet isn't bred for winter survival)... and it doesn't hurt to bring something to keep them entertained and calm, like their favorite toy or treat.
5. Keep a list of local hotels that will allow pets to stay – most emergency shelters will not! Also keep a list of friends who might be willing to allow you and your pet to stay in an emergency.
6. Purchase a pet carrier or crate, and get your pet used to the idea of spending time in it (leave it open in your home and place treats and favourite toys inside). Make sure that your pet can stand up and turn around in it. This is an easy way to transport and protect your pet in an emergency, and safer for you as pets can sometimes panic during disasters.
7. Talk to your veterinarian or search on the Internet about purchasing pet health insurance. In the event that your pet is hurt you will be secure in knowing that they will receive the medical assistance they need!

7. Talk to the local humane society and your veterinarian to see if there are supports in your area for pets in an emergency. They will have suggestions that you might never think of!
8. Never let your pets food supply get low, especially if they are on a special diet. Make sure that you always have a sufficient supply of any medicines, ointments and important grooming products as well.
9. If your pet normally wears a choke collar, make sure to have a leather or nylon one available for emergency use (in the event that you could be separated from your pet, this will ensure that they do not get caught on something and choke themselves).
10. Make sure that your pet has all of their necessary shots up to date, and keep the certificates in a safe place. Consider making copies and storing them in an alternate location, or in your wallet or purse.
Remember, dogs must have their bordatella ("Kennel Cough") shot on top of their annual rabies and distemper vaccinations in order to stay in most kennels and facilities.
11. If you have a service dog, you will likely be exempt from the pet exclusion at any emergency shelter.
12. Consider having a food dispenser that regulates feeding for birds, and a fish food supplies that slowly dispense food over several days, in the event that you are unable to take them with you.

Helpful Numbers

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
www.fema.gov

The Humane Society
- Cambridge (519) 623-7722
spca.cambridgeweb.net
- Kitchener/Waterloo (519) 745-5615
www.kwhumane.com

Ontario Listings for Dog Kennels (online)
www.petscanada.ca/Kennel/OntarioDog.html

Pet Care Pet Insurance 1-866-275-PETS (7387)
www.petcareinsurance.com

Pet Loss Support Line (519) 824-4120 ext. 53694
www.ovcnet.uoguelph.ca/petloss

Pet Plan Insurance 1-800-268-1169
www.petplan.com

Vet Insurance (for pets) 1-877-838-7387
www.vetinsurance.com

Victim Services of Waterloo Region (519) 585-2363
www.vswr.ca

Your Veterinarian _____

Dog Licenses can be purchased from the Humane Society or from the following cities:

City of Cambridge Dog License (519) 740-4682
City of Waterloo Dog License (519) 747-8776

Victim Services maintains a listing of pet-friendly hotels in the Region, call or email us to get more information.



Victim Services of Waterloo Region

phone: 519.585.2363 fax: 519.579.5593 website: www.vswr.ca
division 1: 134 Frederick St., Kitchener, ON
division 2: 176 Hespeler Rd., Cambridge, ON N1R 6V7