



Protect your pet in a disaster

Disaster Pack for Cats

Just as you do with your family's Disaster Survival Kit, think first about the basics for your cat – **food, water and warmth.**

Prepare two Disaster Survival Kits for your cat –

1. One kit for if you need to stay at home with your cat for up to three days.
2. The other, a more portable lightweight version (Evacuation Kit) for when you need to leave with your cat quickly.

Decide in advance whether you will take your cat with you, so that if disaster strikes you can avoid risky late retrieval from your home.

Place these kits somewhere easy to get to in a hurry, and make sure everyone in the house knows where they are kept.

Regularly re-check these kits for expiry dates to ensure supplies stay fresh - particularly the food, water and medicine items. Water should be replaced every six months to ensure freshness.



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Prepare for your Cat – Checklist

Emergency Survival Items:

- **Food:** Store at least three days' worth of non-perishable pet food (canned or dried) in an airtight, waterproof container (remember the can opener!). Ideally this should be the same food as you normally feed your cat so as to avoid stomach upsets.
- **Water:** Store at least three days' worth of water for your cat, in addition to the water you need for yourself (remember a cat can drink more water than usual when under stress). Plus you will need extra water to clean up after your cat.
- **Medicines:** Store any extra supply of medicines your cat needs in a waterproof container, as well as any special dietary needs or supplements.
- **Veterinary/Medical Records:** Store copies of any medical and vaccination records in a watertight container or ziplock bag including your vet's name and telephone number (in case you have to board your cat or place them in foster care).
- **First Aid Kit:** Store extra cotton bandage rolls, bandage tapes, scissors, tweezers and latex gloves in addition to those required for your family. Talk to your vet about any other requirements ie tick/flea prevention, antibiotic ointment and saline solution (ie eye wash solution separate from your family use).
▶ [Click here for a full First Aid Kit for Pets](#)
- **Blanket/Bedding:** Familiar items, like a favourite blanket or toys, or even a pillowcase they can bury into, can help reduce stress for your cat.
- **Sanitation:** Include any cat litter and litter box device. Other useful items are newspapers, paper towels, plastic bags, gloves and household bleach (to dilute) to clean.

Identification:

- **Collar with ID disc:** Add an ID disc to your cat's collar that clearly states their name, your name, phone number and if there is room your address. Include a back up collar and tag in your cat's Disaster Survival Kit.
- **Microchip and Register:** Make sure your cat is microchipped and registered, and that a copy of the microchip certificate is in your Disaster Survival Kit. If your cat gets lost, this is their easiest ticket home! Ensure your microchip database records include the contact details of your 'next of kin' (ie. a close relative or friend outside of your household), in case you have to be evacuated and the mobile phone network is down. Remember to regularly check your details on the microchip databases to make sure they are all up to date.
- **Photograph:** Store a current photograph of your cat in a waterproof container, including notes on: distinguishing features, name, sex, age, colour and breed. Also include a photograph of you and your cat together as this helps prove ownership if you become separated.
- **Back up:** As a back up, save microchip details, medical and veterinary details, key contact details and all photographs electronically to places such as 'Dropbox', your mobile phone or save a folder in your Webmail (eg Gmail). This means you can still access these vital details if you are cut off from returning to your cat.

Equipment:

- **Cages or Carrier:** This is to transport your cat safely and ensure they cannot escape. Remember anything cardboard/paper based (ie pet carrier box) will disintegrate.

A cage/carrier should be large enough for your cat to stand comfortably, turn around, and lie down and have adequate ventilation. Your cat may have to stay in the cage/carrier for hours at a time, so include bedding, blankets and any favourite toy, to reduce stress levels.



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Safe Shelter Places

It is vital to plan whether you will take your cat with you in a disaster, and how you will keep it safe and secure. This avoids the risky late retrieval of your cat from your home. Pets are usually not permitted in evacuation centres, so you need to plan and agree on a 'Safe House' or an animal shelter that you and your cat (or just your cat) can go to:

- ☐ **A Safe House:** Plan and agree with a family member or friend (who doesn't live with you and who has cared for your cat in the past) if they will care for your cat for any length of time, in case of a disaster.
- ☐ **Place their full name, address and telephone number in your Disaster Survival Kit in a waterproof container.** All adults and children in your household should know these primary and alternative contacts (names/addresses/contact numbers) or always carry this information with them.
- ☐ **Show them and a neighbour where your Disaster Survival Kits are kept** in case you are not at home when disaster strikes and you are cut off from returning to your cat. This means your neighbour can feed and attend to your cat in the interim.
- ☐ **Have a plan to communicate with your contact after the event.** Arrange a meeting place in a safe area so you can be reunited with your cat.

- ☐ **A Safe Shelter:** Make a list of contact information and addresses of potential 'pet friendly' shelters (cattery, motels that allow pets, local vet centres). Your local council may be able to assist you with this. Keep a list on you at all times and a copy in each of your Disaster Survival Kits.

At most locations you will need to provide veterinary records before boarding pets.

Always call ahead for a reservation as soon as you think you might have to evacuate from home.

Practise your plan

To ensure you and your cat can move fast and feel secure if you need to shelter in place in a disaster, you should practise getting your cat into your safe place in the house (where your Disaster Survival Kits are kept).

Remember to practise your plan regularly so that your cat becomes used to entering and travelling calmly in their cage/carrier.

Try doing practise runs in the dark. This will ensure you can navigate quicker if a disaster strikes during the night or if there is a power cut.

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