



Protect your pet in a disaster

Disaster Pack for Small Pets (mice, rats and guinea pigs)

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

Prepare two Disaster Survival Kits for your pet –

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

Decide in advance whether you will take your pet 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 Small Pet – Checklist

Emergency Survival Items:

- **Food:** Store at least three days' worth of non-perishable pet food in an airtight, waterproof container.
- **Water:** Store at least three days' worth of water, in addition to the water you need for yourself. Plus you will need extra water to clean up after your pet. If they are used to using a drinking bottle, keep a spare in the kit.
- **Medicines:** Store extra supply of medicines your pet needs in a waterproof container as well as special dietary or behavioural condition needs.
- **Veterinary/Medical Records:** Store copies of medical records in a watertight container including your vet's name and telephone number (in case you have to board your pet or place them in foster care).
- **First Aid Kit:** Make up a first aid kit for your pet or add to your household's (human) first aid kit. Make sure you talk to your vet about any specific requirements that may be required beyond that in your household (human) first aid kit.
▶ [Click here for a full First Aid Kit for Pets](#)
- **Blanket/Bedding:** Familiar items, like a favourite blanket or even a pillowcase they can bury into, can help reduce stress for your pet.
- **Sanitation:** Include pet litter and litter box device. Other useful items are newspapers, paper towels, plastic bags, gloves and household bleach (to dilute) to clean.

Identification:

- **Photograph:** Store a current photograph of your pet in a waterproof container, including notes on: distinguishing features, name, sex, age, colour and breed. Also include a photograph of you and your pet together as this helps prove they are yours 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 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 pet.

Equipment:

- **Cages or Carrier:** This is to transport your pet 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 pet to stand comfortably, turn around, and lie down and have adequate ventilation. Your pet may have to stay in the cage/carrier for hours at a time so include bedding and a favourite toy to reduce stress levels.

Small animals often feel safer if they are able to hide, so place a small cardboard box inside their cage.

Make sure your pet's cage/carrier includes a tag that clearly states their name, your name, phone number and, if there is room, your address. Include a back-up tag in your pet's Disaster Survival Kit.



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Safe Shelter Places

It is vital to plan in advance whether you will take your pet with you in a disaster, and how you will keep it safe and secure. This avoids the risky late retrieval of your pet 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 pet (or just your pet) can go to:

- **A Safe House:** Plan and agree with a family member or friend (who doesn't live with you and who has ideally cared for your pet in the past) if they will care for your pet 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 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 pet. This means your neighbour can feed and attend to your pet 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 pet.

- **A Safe Shelter:** Make a list of contact information and addresses of other potential places you may be able to leave your pet (motels that allow pets or local vet centres). 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 pet can move fast and feel secure if you need to shelter in place in a disaster, you should practise getting your pet into your safe place in the house (where your emergency survival kits are kept).

Remember to practise your plan regularly so that your pet 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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