



**Disaster  
Strikes!  
are you**

# PREPARED?

## Your pets count on you!

Does your family have a plan in case of a flood, earthquake, fire, extended power outage or other disaster where you may have to evacuate? Having supplies and a plan before a disaster will give you peace of mind, save precious time and maybe even your pet's life.

Don't expect rescue centres to have supplies for your pets – make it your responsibility. Prepare your pet emergency kit using the checklist provided. (See next page.)

When preparing your supplies, remember that small animals, including your cats, need individual carrying cases. No matter how mellow your cats usually are, when they are frightened, they may flee and get lost.

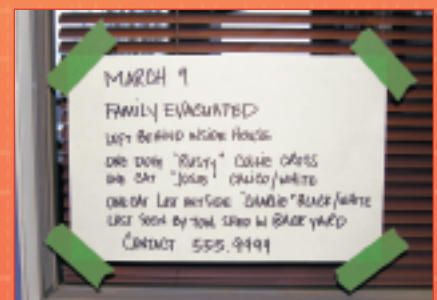
## When you can't take your pet

Try your best to take your pet with you. However, rescue authorities know when it is critical to evacuate a disaster area and you must listen to them. If you cannot take your pets with you, it's not your fault. Take comfort that the BC SPCA and other animal rescue groups will look for pets left in homes and provide care for these animals.

- Post a highly visible sign in a window or on your door to let rescue workers know how many pets were left behind. Include a description of each pet (e.g., dog, "Buster," brown; cat, "Fluffy," grey). See the sample below.
- Leave plenty of water in a large tip-proof container inside and outside your home.
- Leave dry food in large open containers (or in timed feeders – check local pet stores).
- Do not tether (tie up) dogs or cats as the chances for survival are greater if they can escape easily. Leave barn doors open and open gates for farm animals.
- If your cat is outdoors when a disaster occurs, chances are your cat will be hiding somewhere in a safe place, so you might not be able to find him. If adults tell you it is time to leave, leave a sign on your window or door, explaining you have a lost cat outside and include: his name; colour; and where you last saw him.

## When it's safe to go back to your home:

- Immediately check with your local animal shelter to report your pet missing. They may have already rescued your pet.





## Special Considerations for Farm Animals

If your family has farm animals, make a plan today. Don't wait until it's too late. In most cases you will not be able to take your farm animals with you but you may be able to transport them to a safe shelter. Each city/municipality will be different. Do your research and try contacting the following groups for assistance:

- ✓ Farm associations
- ✓ 4H Clubs
- ✓ Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

- Make and distribute "lost pet" posters.
- Ask your neighbours to keep an eye out for your pet(s).
- Don't give up, sometimes lost pets turn up months after they have gone missing.
- Visit [www.sPCA.bc.ca/kids](http://www.sPCA.bc.ca/kids) for more information about finding a lost pet.

SPCA staff helping animals after a disaster.



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### Important!

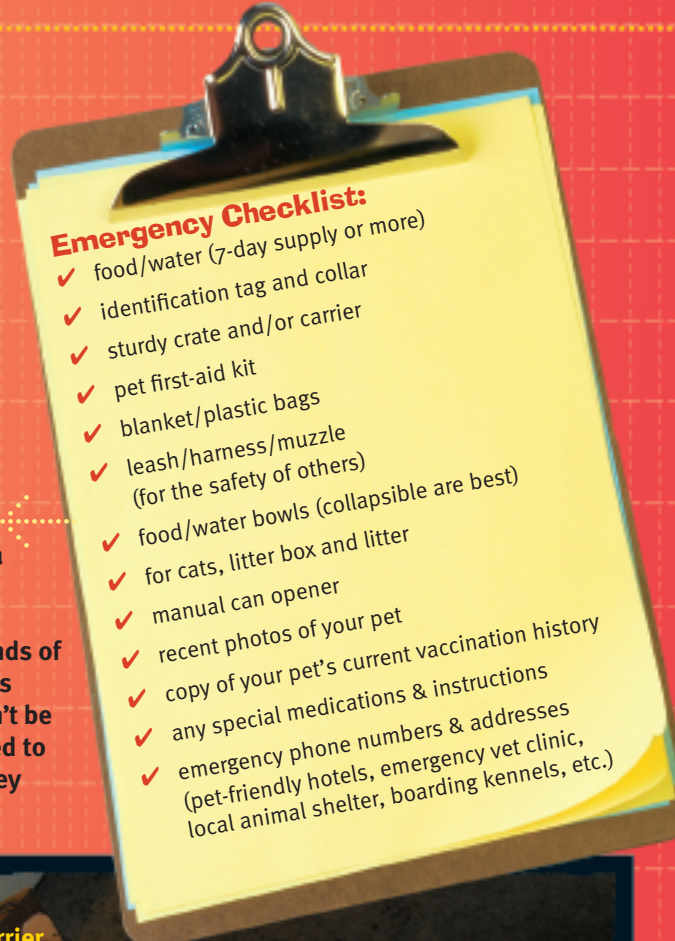
All pets need a permanent form of identification at all times (either a tattoo or microchip) plus an ID tag with your pet's name and a phone number (cell number is ideal). In a disaster you may be separated from your pets and with ID you can be reunited.



### Fast Fact!

In the Katrina hurricane disaster thousands of animals couldn't be returned to

their families because they never had ID.



#### Emergency Checklist:

- ✓ food/water (7-day supply or more)
- ✓ identification tag and collar
- ✓ sturdy crate and/or carrier
- ✓ pet first-aid kit
- ✓ blanket/plastic bags
- ✓ leash/harness/muzzle (for the safety of others)
- ✓ food/water bowls (collapsible are best)
- ✓ for cats, litter box and litter
- ✓ manual can opener
- ✓ recent photos of your pet
- ✓ copy of your pet's current vaccination history
- ✓ any special medications & instructions
- ✓ emergency phone numbers & addresses (pet-friendly hotels, emergency vet clinic, local animal shelter, boarding kennels, etc.)

