

# DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

## PETS PREPAREDNESS

### INTRODUCTION

When planning for possible crises, emergencies and/or disasters, it helps to associate your pets as part of the family. Your animals loved ones depend on you for their safety and well-being. In a wildfire or other emergency and/or disaster, animals will react to unfamiliar smells, panicked human beings and scenes of chaos. Animals will quickly become stressed, have difficulty in breathing, overheat or behave erratically.

Emergencies and/or disasters come in many forms, as they may require anything from a brief absence from your home to permanent evacuation. Each type of emergency and/or disaster requires different measures to keep your pets safe. The best thing you can do for yourself and your pets is to be prepared.

The following section will provide you and your loved ones with helpful information on how to prepare you and your pets for emergencies and/or disasters.

#### **Do Not Leave Your Pets Behind**

- If you have to evacuate your home, first responders and emergency management experts state, **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PETS BEHIND**. Pets most likely cannot survive on their own and if by some remote chance they do, you may not be able to find them when you return. For additional information, please access the Humane Society of the United States.

#### **Plan for Pet Disaster Needs**

- Identifying Shelter(s) that Accept Pets

For public health reasons, many emergency shelters cannot accept pets. Find out which motels and hotels in the area you plan to evacuate to allow pets well in advance of needing them. Motel and hotel companies have comprehensive guides that list it family of motels and hotels that accept and permit pets on their properties.

- In your disaster preparedness kit, include your local animal shelter's telephone and other contact information.