

Pet First Aid Kit

Prepare a small first aid kit tailored to each pet's species, age, lifestyle, diet and health. While some of the items may duplicate supplies in your own first aid kit, it's best to have a separate kit for pets, in case someone else must care for them. Your vet can help you customize a first aid kit for your pet and advise on proper dosing of emergency medications.

- 2-4 week supply of current medications and instructions, in a ziplock bag (rotate the medication if you renew the prescription.)
- blunt-end scissors, tweezers, nail trimmer, tick remover tool, needle-less syringe or eye dropper, muzzle (or nylon stocking)
- latex gloves, sterile eye wash, ear wash, saline solution, antiseptic wash or wipe, digital rectal thermometer, Vaseline
- 1-inch white medical tape, roll of gauze, Vet Wrap, Telfa pads, rigid straight stick (splint)
- cold packs & hot packs, towels & washcloths, emergency blanket
- emergency medications: Quick Clot (or similar product to stop external bleeding), Diphenhydramine (Benadryl), antibiotic ointment (e.g., Polysporin), vet-prescribed pain relief

To learn pet first aid and the proper use of these supplies buy a handbook, borrow a library book, take a Red Cross course or ask a pet store to organize a workshop. Visit on-line resources for pet first aid:

- www.avma.org/firstaid/
- www.veterinarypartner.com/ >> click on *First Aid: Emergency Care*

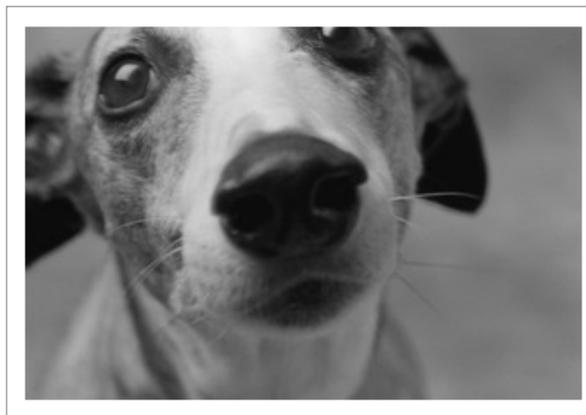
Grab and Go Kits for Pets

Keep these kits with your family's Grab 'n Go kits for quick access.

Suggested contents

- ID document that identifies your pet and identifies you as the owner/guardian — Visit www.citizencanine.org/gendocs/emergency-preparedness-pet-id.pdf for a free downloadable ID form. Keep a copy in your own Grab & Go kit to help prove ownership.
- contact information for pet-friendly hotels, emergency vet clinics, local animal shelters, boarding kennels *etc.*
- current vaccination records
- pet first aid kit (see checklist)
- 14-day supply of bottled water and canned food, rotated every 3 months (Canned food reduces need for water intake.)
- manual can opener & plastic lid for the can
- 2 collapsible food and water bowls
- 2 collars and 2 leashes or harnesses
- muzzle
- booties (for dogs, cats) to protect paw pads from sharp debris
- blanket and towel for bedding and warmth
- sturdy collapsible crate or carrier
- grooming supplies
- 2 chew toys or other favourite toys
- for cats: a small, disposable litter tray (e.g., aluminum roasting pan) and small bag of scoopable litter
- poop bags

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR PETS



*advice, checklists and
information resources to help you
plan for pet care
during any emergency*



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Emergency Evacuations

Most people want to keep pets with them in an evacuation. Usually, this is the recommended course of action. In rare situations, you may be forced to leave pets either at home or in someone else's care. In *all* situations, making arrangements *before* the chaos of an emergency will improve your pets' chances of survival, greatly reduce their anxiety and discomfort, and increase the likelihood that you and your pets will be reunited after a separation.

Depending on the types of pets you have, emergency planning could include:

- a licence tag for the collar, and a permanent tattoo or microchip — When you purchase a licence or microchip, your information is stored in a database, greatly improving your chances of finding your pet. Inform all databases of any changes in your address, phone / cell phone number or vet.
- a 'grab and go' kit for each pet
- arranging with friends or neighbours to rescue / care for your pets at home in your absence, and instructions for care
- a contact list of shelters (vet, kennels, pet-friendly hotels *etc*) in case your pets can't remain with you or friends
- crate training, muzzle training
- up-to-date licences, medications, vaccinations and related records
- planning and practising safe evacuation routes and alternates — include your pets in your family's home evacuation drills
- learning pet first aid and creating a kit
- preparing window signs for your home, in case your pets must be left behind

If you are unable to take your pet with you in an evacuation, 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 front window or on your door, stating how many pets were left behind. Include a description of each pet (*e.g.*, elderly red tabby cat with white paws).
- Leave plenty of water in large, tip-proof containers inside and outside your home.
- Leave dry food in large open containers.
- Leave your pets loose inside your home. Do not chain or tie your dogs or cats outside. Their chances for survival are greater if they can escape from danger easily.

If your pet is missing when you return home

- report your missing pet to the local animal shelter,
- make and distribute "lost pet" posters,
- ask neighbours to watch for your pet, and
- don't give up— sometimes lost pets turn up months after they have gone missing.

After a disaster or emergency

Keep an eye out for pets that seem lost. Take them to the animal shelter to help reunite them with their families.

Special Considerations

Farm animals — If your family has farm animals, make a plan today. Don't wait until you are in the middle of an emergency. Each city / municipality has its own bylaws. For information, contact your municipality, farm associations, 4H clubs, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands.

Birds should be transported in a secure travel cage or carrier. Place a blanket over the cage in colder weather or a regular cover in warmer weather. Carry a spray bottle to moisten feathers in warm weather. Keep their leg bands on for identification. Bring paper towels to line the carrier frequently. Purchase a timed feeder in case you must leave your bird behind.

Reptiles like lizards can be transported like birds. Take a sturdy bowl that is large enough for your pet to soak in, and a heating pad or hot water bottle.

Small animals such as hamsters, gerbils and ferrets should be transported in secure carriers with bedding materials, food and bowls. Pack a week's worth of bedding materials, an extra water bottle, a small hide-box, and a salt lick.

Emergency information resources

BC SPCA

Citizen Canine (a local non-profit)

The Humane Society of Canada

American SPCA

CRD (Capital Regional District)

City of Vancouver (and other BC municipalities)

Emergency Management BC (formerly PEP)

Public Safety Canada (federal government)

FEMA (U.S. Federal Emergency Mgmt Agency)

See over for First Aid Kit, Grab & Go Bag