Have Your PETS ready in 3 Steps

1 **Make a Plan**

2 **Prepare a Pet Go-Kit**

3 **Update your Pet's Identification**

Important Links

Check out the links below for more information on emergency preparedness.

Montgomery County Resources
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/PetPreparedness

FEMA Ready.gov
www.ready.gov/animals

Humane Society of the United States
www.hsus.org/disaster

American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
www.aspca.org/pet-care/disaster-preparedness

Montgomery County's Animal Response Team (CART)

CART is an outreach and education program dedicated to helping people prepare themselves and their pets for an emergency.

During large-scale emergencies, CART volunteers may establish and operate an emergency pet shelter in conjunction with a human shelter. In Montgomery County, pet shelters will be located as close as possible to selected human shelters. Pet owners who are staying at the human shelter must visit and care for their pet during its stay at the pet shelter.

CART is operated through the cooperation of the Montgomery County OEMHS, the Montgomery County Police Department Animal Services Division, the American Red Cross, the Montgomery County Humane Society and the Humane Society of the United States, among others.

If you are interested in helping as a CART volunteer—and you have animal handling and disaster preparation/response experience—please contact CART@montgomerycountymd.gov. You can help with:

- Emergency animal sheltering
- Outreach events, such as the County Fair and Preparedness Month activities
- Educating the public through speeches and disseminating materials
- Animal sheltering exercises and other training.

For more information on CART visit:
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/PetPreparedness

Montgomery County OnDemand		
	Subscribe to receive Montgomery County Public Information Office reports	www.twitter.com @MontgomeryCoMD
	Keywords: Montgomery County Government	www.facebook.com/pages/Montgomery-County-MD-Office-of-Emergency-Management-Homeland-Security
	Video by Montgomery County Government	www.youtube.com/user/montgomerycountymd
	Alert!*Montgomery* - Register to receive emergency alerts	https://alert.montgomerycountymd.gov

For more information on Emergency Preparedness if you do not have access to a computer, contact 311 or 240-777-0311 (TTY 240-777-3556).

During emergencies, listen to your radio for Emergency Broadcast System information on WTOP (FM-103.5) and WMAL (AM-630).

ARE YOU READY?

www.MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/OEMHS

Pet Preparedness

Get Your Pet Ready in 3 Easy Steps!

Prepared by the
Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security
www.MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/OEMHS

1 Make a Plan

During emergencies, you may have to evacuate or stay put with your pets. Make a plan to reduce stress for both you and your pets.

If you must evacuate, you will need to take your pets with you or arrange for someone to take care of them. Shelters established during an emergency may not accept pets or will separate humans and pets into different facilities. Exotic pets may not be accepted into any shelter.

Evacuating your Pet

Options for sheltering your pets:

- Arrange for family or friends who are familiar with your pets and who live outside of the affected area to shelter your pets
- Identify animal-friendly hotels/motels outside of the affected area that will accept you and your pets
- Talk with your local veterinarian, boarding kennel, or grooming facility to see if they can offer safe shelter for your pets during an emergency
- Contact 311 about pet sheltering during emergencies.

Other preparations include the following:

- Create a Pet Go-Kit for each pet
- Practice evacuation plans to familiarize your pets with the assembly and securing process to reduce resistance to commands or restraints used during an emergency
- Know your pets' hiding places so you can easily find them during an emergency
- Be aware that stressed pets may behave differently than normal and aggression or abnormal behavior may occur. For cats and birds, use kennels or cages. Also be advised that panicked pets may try to flee
- When you leave, put a note on your front door to let rescue workers know that you and your pets got out safely.

If You Cannot Get Home to Your Pets

- Identify a trusted person to care for or pick up your pets in your absence
- Put up-to-date stickers on the main entrances of your home to alert rescue workers to the number and types of pets inside. Free Rescue Alert stickers can be ordered from the ASPCA (see "Important Links")
- Keep your pet's collar/harness, leash, kennel, cage and Pet Go-Kit in a place where they can be easily found.

Important Contact Information for Your Pets

Create a list of contacts before an emergency. Consider local and out-of-area resources. Keep a copy of this contact list by your phone.

Local Veterinarian

Alternate Veterinarian

Emergency Pet Contact

Local Boarding Facility

Boarding Facility (30-90 miles from your home)

Pet-Friendly Hotels (30-90 miles from your home)

Local Animal Shelter

2 Make a Pet Go-Kit

Include pet supplies in your own Emergency Supply Kit—gather basic supplies that you and your pets need to survive in your home or in a shelter for at least 72 hours. These include the following:

- Pet food or special dietary needs and feed bowl
- Containers of clean water
- Medications and a pet first-aid kit
- Portable crate or carrier
- Muzzle, collar, and leash
- Cotton sheet to place over the carrier to help keep your pet calm
- Comforting toys or treats
- Litter, litter pan, scoop, and/or other required sanitation items
- Blankets, can openers, trash bags, newspapers, containers
- A current color photograph of you and your pet together (in case you are separated)
- Copies of your pet's medical records, including rabies vaccination status
- Proof of identification and ownership (microchip information)
- Physical description of your pets.

3 Update Your Pet's ID

Dogs and cats should wear a collar or harness with their rabies tag, pet license tag, and identification tag at all times. Identification tags should include your name, address, and phone number, as well as the phone number of an emergency contact. Talk to your veterinarian about micro-chipping your pet. A properly registered microchip enables positive identification if you and your pet are separated.

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