

If you are like millions of animal owners nationwide, your pet is an important member of your household.

Disasters can vary widely in scale, severity, and impact. No matter where you live, disasters and emergencies can and will occur. The likelihood that you and your animals will survive an emergency such as a fire or flood, tornado or attack depends largely on emergency planning done today.

Some of the things you can do to prepare for the unexpected, such as **assembling an animal emergency supply kit** and **developing a pet care buddy system**, are the same for any emergency. Whether you decide to stay put in an emergency or evacuate to a safer location, you will need to **make plans in advance for your pets**.



Keep in mind that what's best for you is typically what's best for your animals.

In an emergency, your pets will be even more dependent on you for their safety and well-being. Your family's disaster plans must include your pets too!

This information was developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in consultation with the American Kennel Club, The American Society of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the American Veterinary Medical Association, and the Humane Society of the United States.



The Montgomery County Office of Animal Services is committed to serving and protecting all animals and citizens in our community with dedication and compassion.

In line with our mission, we are a resource to you during disasters and emergencies.

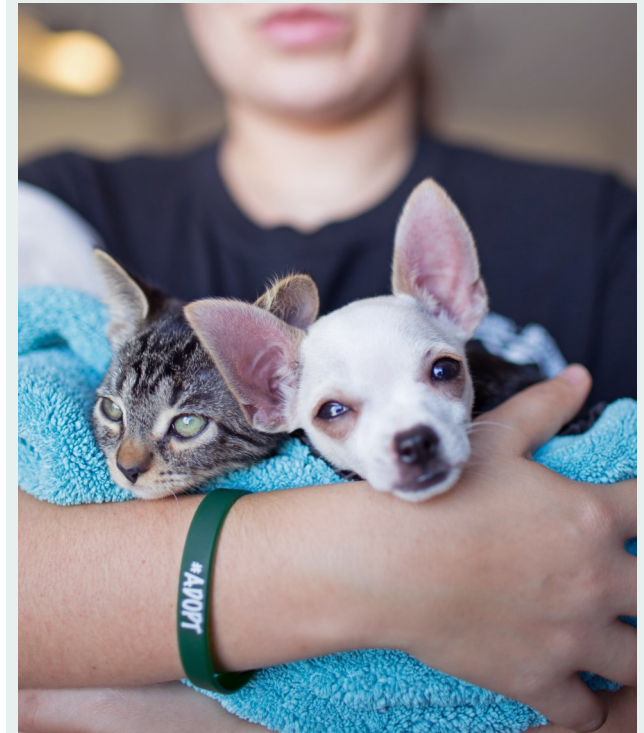
To contact us, please visit us online at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/oas

In person at **7315 Muncaster Mill Road, Derwood, MD**

Or over the phone at **240- 773- 5900**.

Emergency Pet Preparedness:

Make sure you're ready for disaster *before* it strikes.



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Step 1: Prepare

Just as you do with your family's emergency supply kit, think first about the basics for survival, particularly food and water. In your kit, put everything you and your pets will need to stay where you are. Be sure to review your kits regularly to ensure that their contents, especially foods and medicines, are fresh.

Food. Keep at least three days of food in an airtight, waterproof container.

Water. Store at least three days of water specifically for your pets in addition to water you need for yourself and your family.

Medicines and medical records. Keep an extra supply of medicines your pet takes on a regular basis. In addition, place copies of your pet's registration information, adoption papers, vaccination documents and medical records in a clean plastic bag

First aid kit. Most kits should include cotton bandage rolls, bandage tape and scissors; antibiotic ointment; flea and tick prevention; latex gloves, isopropyl alcohol and saline solution.

Crate or other pet carrier. The carrier should be large enough for your pet to stand, turn around and lie down.

Collar with ID tag, harness or leash. Your pet should wear a collar with its rabies tag and identification at all times. Include a backup leash, collar and ID tag in your pet's emergency supply kit.

Your pet should also be microchipped if they are not already.

Sanitation. Include pet litter and litter box if appropriate, newspapers, paper towels, plastic trash bags and household cleaner.

A picture of your pet. If you become separated from your pet during an emergency, a picture of you and your pet together will help you document ownership and allow others to assist you in identifying your pet.

Familiar items. Put favorite toys, treats or bedding in your kit. Familiar items can help reduce stress for your pet

Step 2: Plan

Be prepared to assess the situation. Use whatever you have on hand to take care of yourself and ensure your pet's safety during an emergency. Depending on the nature of the emergency, the first important decision is whether you stay put or get away. Use common sense to determine if there is immediate danger.

If you're specifically told to evacuate, shelter-in-place or seek medical treatment, do so immediately.

Create a plan to get away. Plan how you will assemble your pets and anticipate where you will go. If you must evacuate, take your pets with you. Secure appropriate lodging in advance depending on the number and type of animals in your care.

Consider family or friends willing to take in you and your pets in an emergency. Other options may include: a hotel or motel that takes pets or a boarding facility, such as a kennel or veterinary hospital that is near an evacuation facility or your family's meeting place. Find out before an emergency happens if any of these facilities in your area might be viable options for you and your pets.

Develop a buddy system. Plan with neighbors, friends or relatives to make sure that someone is available to care for or evacuate your pets if you are unable to do so.

Gather contact information for emergency animal treatment. Make a list of contact information and addresses of area animal control agencies including the Humane Society or SPCA, and emergency veterinary hospitals. Keep one copy of these phone numbers with you and one in your pet's emergency supply kit.

