In the event of a disaster, the best way to protect your household is to have a preparedness plan. If you are a pet owner, your plan can include your pets. Taking a few minutes now to prepare can save their lives later.

Different disasters require different actions & responses. As a general rule: If it’s not safe for you to stay behind, then it’s not safe for them to stay behind.

Here are some helpful tips for making a plan, sheltering in place and sheltering in an evacuation.

**Pet Plan:**
- Update all tags on the collar & have pet wear it
- Microchip your pet (keep the information up to date)
- Pet carrier for each pet with name, address & contact info on the carrier
- Leash/collar closely located to the door (grab-n-go)
- Have a transportation plan
- Safe place for your pet to stay (with you, friends, authorities, etc…)

**Shelter In Place:**
- Select a safe room—normally an interior room or a room with no or few windows
- Remove toxic chemicals/plants
- Close off small areas where pets may like to hide but it is difficult to get to them (vents, under heavy furniture, etc…)

**Evacuation Sheltering:**
- Contact your local emergency management office, local veterinary clinics, boarding facilities, and local animal shelters
- Contact family or friends outside the evacuation area
- Contact a pet-friendly hotel

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**Pet Emergency Preparedness Kit**

- Medical records & microchip information
- Medications (2 weeks min. & treats if used with meds)
- First Aid Kit
- Leash/harness/carrier
- Current photo (lost pet handout—pet/owner info)
- Food (2 weeks worth)—wet food reduces water intake by pets 😊
- Water (2 weeks worth)
- Bowls & manual can opener
- Cat litter/pan/plastic bags (toiletries)
- Pet bed & toys (de-stress)
- Written feeding schedule, medical conditions, behavior problems, and veterinarian info (fostering pet)
- Sturdy waterproof container for storage

More info available at ready.gov & cdc.gov