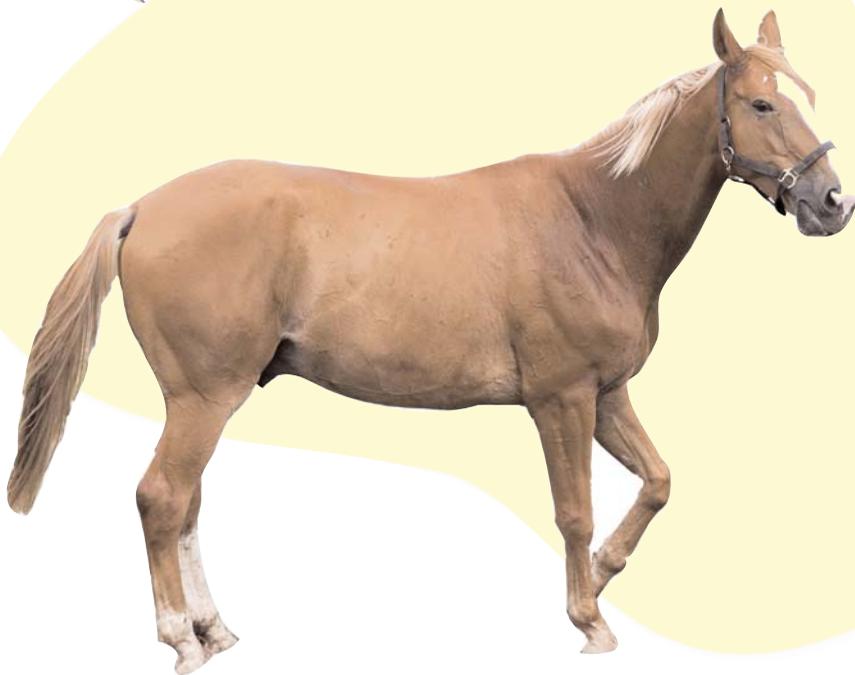




Pet Preparedness Packet



A "How-To" Guide



2007

CITY OF OAKLAND



FIRE SERVICES AGENCY • 1605 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. WAY • OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94612

Office of Emergency Services

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Dear Pet Owner:

Our pets enrich our lives in more ways than we can count. In turn, they depend on us for their safety and well-being. There are many steps that you can take now to keep your pet(s) safe during an emergency or disaster. To help you get prepared, the CORE Advisory Task Force of the Fire Department Office of Emergency Services CORE Program in affiliation with Oakland Animal Services have created this Pet Preparedness how-to guide.

CORE (Citizens of Oakland Respond to Emergencies) is an emergency preparedness and response training program to empower citizens to be more self-sufficient and able to take care of themselves and their neighborhood in emergency and disaster situations. The mission of CORE is to promote the spirit of neighbor helping neighbor and to provide the highest quality emergency and disaster prevention, preparedness and response training.

CORE training is offered at neighborhood sites, the Office of Emergency Services and the Fire Training Center year-round. Please see the core website: www.oaklandcore.org for the schedule of classes and events, or call the CORE office at (510) 238-6351.

Please take the time to prepare yourself, your family and your pet for the next major emergency.

Sincerely,

2006 CORE Advisory Task Force



Connecting animals and people to improve lives and expand the circle of compassion.

Dear Oakland Resident:

The Oakland Police Department's Oakland Animal Services is proud to work with the Oakland Fire Department's Office of Emergency Services to help residents prepare to care for their pets in a disaster. This packet of information will give you important instructions for easy steps you can take now to keep your pet safe in the future.

In a large scale disaster, there is no guarantee that external resources will be available to care for your animals. Therefore, it is critical that you prepare now. This packet will show you how to:

- ◆ Gather enough supplies to be able to care for your animal for at least three days after a disaster;
- ◆ Ensure that your animals are properly identified so that they can be returned to you if they are lost during a disaster; and
- ◆ Plan with your neighbors to rescue neighborhood animals in case residents are unable to return home to their pet(s).

Oakland Animal Services looks forward to continuing our partnership with the Office of Emergency Services to offer additional resources to help Oakland residents prepare for disasters.

Sincerely,

David Cronin, Sergeant
Interim Director, Oakland Animal Services
Oakland Police Department

Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards (PETS) Act

In October 2006, the President signed the Pets Evacuation and Transportation (PETS) Act to ensure that state and local emergency preparedness operational plans address the needs of individuals with household pets and service animals following a major disaster or emergency.

The final bill contains provisions to help with disaster planning, including

- requiring that local and state emergency preparedness authorities include plans for pets and service animals in their disaster plans to qualify for grants from FEMA;
- granting FEMA the authority to assist states and local communities in developing disaster plans to accommodate people with pets and service animals;
- authorizing federal funds to help create pet-friendly emergency shelter facilities; and
- allowing FEMA to provide assistance to individuals with pets and service animals, and the animals themselves, following a major disaster.

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Disaster Planning

To increase your pet's chance of surviving a disaster, such as a fire or earthquake, take steps now to prepare for its safety.



Be Prepared with a Disaster Plan

The best way to protect your family from the effects of a disaster is to have a disaster plan. If you are a pet owner, that plan must include your pets. Being prepared can save their lives.

Different disasters require different responses. But whether the disaster is an earthquake or a hazardous spill, you may have to evacuate your home.

In the event of a disaster, if you must evacuate, the most important thing you can do to protect your pets is to evacuate them. Leaving pets behind, even if you try to create a safe place for them, is likely to result in their being injured, lost or worse. So prepare now for the day when you and your pets may have to leave your home.

1. Get a Rescue Alert Sticker

Write down how many animals of each kind are inside the house, and place the sticker in a spot visible to rescue workers. Be sure to include the name and phone number of your veterinarian. If you take your pets with you when you evacuate, write 'EVACUATED' across the sticker. When you return, remember to replace the sticker with a new one.

The sticker can be ordered for free through the ASPCA on their website: www.aspc.org/site/PageServer?pagename=pets_rescuesticker

2. Have a Safe Place To Take Your Pets

Most disaster shelters **cannot accept pets** because of state health and safety regulations and other considerations. Service Animals who assist people with disabilities are generally the **only** animals allowed in disaster shelters. Animal control agencies and animal shelters will generally have limited to no available room for owned animals during an emergency and should not be counted on to take your animal. It may be difficult, if not impossible, to find shelter for your animals in the midst of a disaster, so plan ahead. Do your research before a disaster strikes:

- Contact hotels and motels outside your immediate area to check policies on accepting pets and restrictions on number, size, and species. Ask if “no pet” policies could be waived in an emergency. Keep a list of “pet friendly” places, including phone numbers, with other disaster information and supplies. If you have advance notice of an impending disaster, call ahead for reservations.
- Ask friends, relatives, or others outside your immediate area whether they could shelter your animals in an emergency. If you have more than one pet, they may be more comfortable if kept together, but be prepared to house them separately.
- Prepare a list of boarding facilities and veterinarians outside the affected area who could shelter animals in an emergency; include 24-hour phone numbers. (See Appendix)



Disaster Planning

3. Assemble a Portable Pet Disaster Supplies Kit

Whether you are away from home for a day or a week, you'll need essential supplies. Keep items in an accessible place and store them in sturdy containers that can be easily carried (e.g. duffel bags, covered trash containers, etc.).

IDENTIFICATION

Keep a collar and I.D. tag on your pets at all times (this includes cats that never go outdoors).

During a disaster, a pet can escape. A collar and tag can increase your chance of getting the animal back. On the tag, include your phone number and address. Remember the phones may not be working, so in order to reunite you with your pet, an address is necessary. Microchipping your pets is a more permanent means of identification. Oakland Municipal Code now mandates that all dogs over 4 months of age must be licensed and microchipped. Microchipping is provided at most veterinary clinics and animal shelters. It is very important to register the microchip with your current address and keep this information up to date with the microchip company.



FOOD, WATER BOWLS, CAT LITTER/PAN AND CAN OPENER

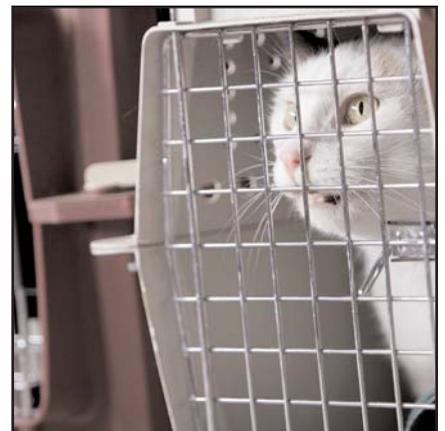
Have at least a week's supply of pet food and water on hand at all times for your pets.

Store the dry food in airtight waterproof containers. If you use canned food, buy the flip top cans or have a can opener in your airtight disaster supply container. Keep some of your pet's favorite treats on hand. Pets become stressed during a disaster too, and a treat provides them some comfort. Also keep a supply of cat litter for the cats in your household and keep a clean litter scoop in your disaster kit.



CONFINEMENT

It is important to prepare to confine your animal during a disaster, even if your animal normally stays close to you, he/she may try to run away during times of intense stress. Have a chain leash or crate for each animal in your household. The crate should be large enough for your animal to stand up and turn around in. A cat carrier needs to be large enough to hold a shoebox size litter box, a water/food dish, and room for the cat to comfortably lie down. Make sure the carrier is not left in the sun, and if it is warm, that the cat gets good ventilation.



If you choose to use a leash for confinement, make sure it is made out of chain so your dog cannot chew through it and it is attached to a well-fitted collar or harness. Be sure the chain is long enough for the dog to move around without getting tangled. If your dog rides in your vehicle, be sure to keep an extra chain leash there too. A disaster may occur while you are away from home, and if you should have to abandon your car, you will need to keep your dog safely controlled.

Disaster Planning

OUTDOOR SAFETY

If your dog is kept outdoors, by law, you must have a shelter for your dog. Make sure this shelter is strong and sturdy and will protect your dog from falling debris, such as trees, shingles, power lines, or chimney bricks.

You should have a heavy-duty wire cutter in case your animal becomes trapped in debris.



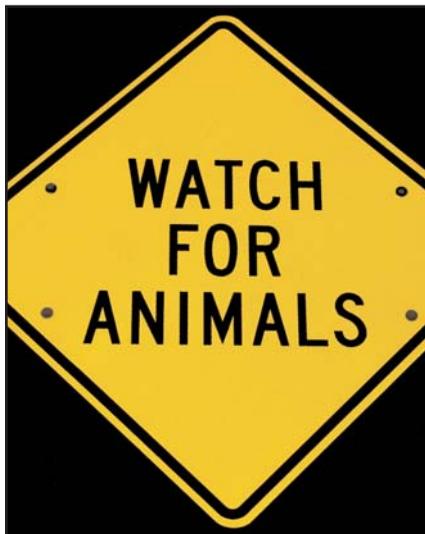
MEDICATIONS AND MEDICAL RECORDS STORED IN A WATERPROOF CONTAINER

A vet may not be open for some time following a disaster.

Ask your regular vet if he/she has a disaster plan. Your pet may need medical attention after a disaster and you need to know where to take your animal. Knowing this in advance may save your animal's life if it is in critical condition. Keep a first aid kit in your disaster kit for your pet. Assembled kits can be purchased at pet stores or ask your vet what to include in one.

If your pet is on a long-term medication, always keep a backup supply on hand and make sure to rotate this supply before it expires.

If the medication needs to be refrigerated, keep an ice chest on hand to store it in. Ice will need to be obtained from a store, and if they are not open, check with the Red Cross.



DOCUMENTATION FOR YOUR PETS IN CASE THEY GET LOST

Take several pictures of you together with all the animals in your household and keep these pictures with your important insurance papers and copies of your pet's registration info, adoption papers, and vaccination information.

Be sure to include in the pictures any distinguishing marks, as these pictures can help reunite you with a lost pet. Store the pictures in a re-sealable plastic bag in case you have to post them during the months that rain. You may also want to consider keeping current color photos of you and your pets on a flash drive or other electronic media.

OTHER PET OWNERS OR PET FRIENDLY NEIGHBORS

Start a buddy system with someone in your neighborhood so that they will check on your animals during a disaster in case you aren't home.

Agree to do the same thing for them. Exchange information on feeding schedules, medical conditions, behavior problems, and the name and number of your veterinarian in case you have to foster or board the pets. Pet beds and toys, if easily transportable, can also be exchanged. Have a permission slip put in your file at the vet's authorizing your buddy to get necessary emergency treatment for your pet should you be out of reach.



BE SURE TO COMFORT YOUR PET DURING A DISASTER

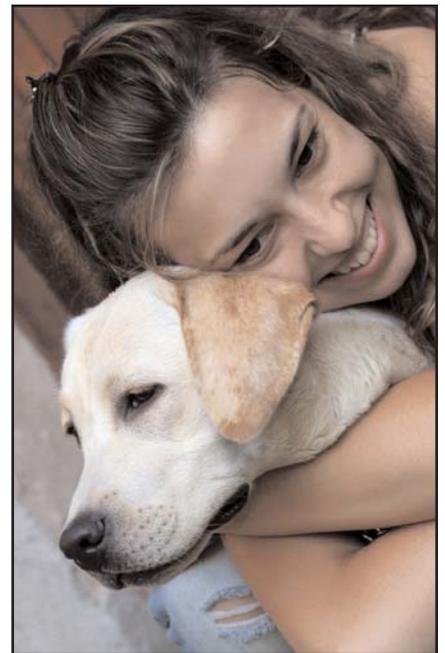
They are frightened too, and having you near to give them a hug will help. If your pet is not ready to be comforted though, do not force it. Let them come to you when they are ready.

4. Know What To Do As a Disaster Approaches

- Sometimes warnings are issued hours, even days, in advance. At the first hint of disaster, act to protect your pet.
- Call ahead to confirm emergency shelter arrangements for you and your pets.
- Check that your pet disaster supplies are ready to take at a moment's notice.
- Bring all pets into the house so that you won't have to search for them if you have to leave in a hurry. Close as many doors as possible to limit search areas.
- Make sure all dogs and cats are wearing collars, securely fastened with up-to-date identification. You can buy temporary tags or put adhesive tape on the back of your pet's ID tag, to add your temporary contact information if you evacuate.
- You may not be home when the evacuation order comes. Find out if a trusted neighbor would be willing to take your pets and meet you at a prearranged location. This person should be comfortable with your pets, know where your animals are likely to be, know where your pet disaster supply kit is kept, and have a key to your home. If you use a pet sitting service, they may be available to help, but discuss the possibility well in advance.

Planning and preparation will enable you to evacuate with your pets quickly and safely. But bear in mind that animals react differently under stress. Outside your home and in the car, keep dogs securely leashed. Transport cats in carriers. Don't leave animals unattended anywhere as they can run off. The most trustworthy pets may panic, hide, try to escape, or even bite and scratch. And when you return home, give your pets time to settle back into their routines. Consult your veterinarian if any behavior problems persist.

Disaster Planning



Neighborhood Pet Preparedness Plan

The following pages are designed to assist your neighborhood in implementing an Emergency Pet Preparedness Plan.

Included are:

1. **A sample letter** your Neighborhood Pet Coordinators may use to initiate the program
2. **Pet Profile forms** to be completed for each animal (to be prepared in triplicate originals)
3. **A notice sheet** to be placed on the front door of each home where a pet is rescued

It is suggested that each household establish a Pet Center that is similarly located throughout the neighborhood, i.e. in a water/critter-proof can behind the side gate, by the garage door, etc. This will facilitate quickly locating supplies necessary for evacuation.

The Pet Center should include a copy of the Pet Profile form as well as applicable supplies.

Two binders of all neighborhood Pet Profile Forms should be maintained with the Neighborhood Pet Coordinators. They should be stored in a place such as your Neighborhood Command Center where all participants can have easy access in the absence of Pet Coordinators. In the event of an emergency requiring neighborhood evacuation, these binders are to be delivered to the staging area so that volunteers or Animal Services can coordinate pet evacuation.

Individual homeowners interested in their pet's safety are also encouraged to utilize this packet. Complete the Pet Profile forms and give extra copies to your neighbors!



Date: _____

Re: Emergency Preparedness for Pets

Dear Neighbor:

As part of our neighborhood emergency preparedness plan, we are also concerned about the evacuation and safety of our pets in the event of a disaster.

Please take the time to answer the following questions and return it to _____
by _____.

How many pets do you have (list number) Dogs _____ Cats _____

Other (list species) _____

Are you interested in being a Pet Coordinator? Yes _____ No _____

Do you want to participate in the pet identification
program by having your pet(s) registered with
our Pet Coordinator? Yes _____ No _____

Would you be willing to help rescue pets? Yes _____ No _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

**CITY OF OAKLAND
ANIMAL PROFILE, RESCUE AUTHORIZATION, RELEASE AND WAIVER**

ADDRESS: _____

OWNER NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

TENANT NAME(S): _____ PHONE: _____

OTHER(S) RESPONSIBLE FOR PETS: _____ PHONE: _____

Name	Type of Animal	Weight	Sex	License #	Common Location(s) Where Animal is Kept	Tattoo/ Microchip#

Location of Crate(s)/ Carrying Case(s) _____

Where are your pets likely to hide when afraid? _____

Are any of your animals aggressive toward strangers? (If yes, please explain.) _____

Do any of your animals have any medical issues? (If yes, please explain.) _____

In the absence of neighbor rescue, do you authorize emergency personnel to do whatever is necessary to evacuate your pet?
Yes _____ No _____ If yes, please read and sign the following:

RELEASE AND WAIVER OF CLAIMS FOR DAMAGE TO PREMISES

In the event that any City of Oakland employee, its agents or volunteers performing emergency animal rescue services (hereafter collectively referred to as “emergency workers”) determines that there is an emergency on or near my residence (address above) which can jeopardize the welfare or safety of any animal residing on said property, I, the undersigned, authorize an emergency worker to enter my residence after knocking and announcing his or her identity, for the purpose of either rescuing my pet or providing my pet with an escape route.

I understand that in the course of so doing, windows or doors to my residence may be left open by the emergency worker and I hereby release and discharge the City of Oakland, its Council Members, officers, directors, agents and emergency workers from and against any and all liability for any injury/harm/death to person, damage to, or loss of property that may be sustained by myself arising from or in any way attributable, in whole or in part, to or as a consequence of an Oakland emergency worker undertaking the above described emergency animal rescue activity or any other acts permitted by this authorization and waiver.

I further understand that nothing in this authorization represents a promise or assurance by the City of Oakland, its Council Members, officers, directors or employees that an Oakland emergency worker will undertake any of the acts I have authorized herein.

I have read and understand the provisions set forth above, and understand that the foregoing is a waiver/release of liability and is legally binding on myself, my heirs, legal representatives, and successors in interest.

Signature of Owner _____ Date _____
Print Name _____

Signature of Tenant _____ Date _____
Print Name _____

Signatures of all owners of record and residents at this address (sign and print name)

Owner / Resident _____
(circle applicable titles(s))



NOTICE

THE FOLLOWING ANIMAL(S):

WERE RESCUED FROM THIS PROPERTY

BY: _____ **ON:** _____

TO RECLAIM, CONTACT: _____

WITHIN 14 DAYS FROM THE ABOVE DATE.

