

Shopping for your pet

Now is the time to stock up on items you will need to take care of your pet(s).

*shopping list courtesy of United Animal Nations and the ASPA



Are you prepared to take care of your pet(s) when an emergency occurs? The following is a sample shopping list.

DOGS

1. FOOD

- Use the brand that your dog is used to
- Have both dry and canned (if that is what your dog normally eats) to last at least one week for each of the dogs in your household
- Buy cans small enough to be used at one feeding since you may not have a way to properly refrigerate a partially used can of food -if possible use pop top cans so you do not need a can opener (if not available be sure to have a can opener in your supplies).
- Rotate the food so it remains fresh
- Have a feeding dish, in case the one you usually use is destroyed or lost
- Include a spoon to scoop/mix the food

2. WATER

- Have enough water to last at least one week for each of the dogs in your household (one gallon per day)
- Rotate the water so it remains fresh
- Include a water dish, in case the one you usually use is destroyed or lost

3. SANITATION

- Have a "pooper scooper" for picking up after your dog
- Have some plastic bags for disposing of your dog's waste

4. CLEANING SUPPLIES

- Small container of dish soap for cleaning out your dog's dishes
- Paper towels for drying dishes and for other cleanup

5. COLLAR, TAG AND HARNESS

- A proper fitting collar and tag should be kept on your dog at all times, but an extra one should also be kept, in case the permanent ones get lost during a disaster.
- Have a spare temporary tag that you can write on – if you are going to be living somewhere else for a period of time, put the temporary phone number and address on the tag.
- Keep a proper-fitting dog harness to be used when you walk your dog – this is a stressful time for pets too, and a frightened animal can slip out of a collar but not a harness.



6. IDENTIFICATION

- Consider micro-chipping your dog as a more permanent means of identification
- Keep current photos of your dog. Always include photos of you and your dog to prove ownership.
- Keep copies of your dog's registration or adoption papers
- Photograph any identifying markings
- Keep several generic Lost Posters. Make sure they are brightly colored and kept in waterproof bags or containers, so if it rains they are not ruined.

7. LEASH

- Keep a leash for walking your dog.

8. CONFINING YOUR DOG

- Use a plastic airline crate or a collapsible wire crate to transport your dog in should you have to evacuate and/or keep it in following the disaster (remember that fences will likely be down in the aftermath of a disaster) – be sure the crate is large enough for your dog to lie down in, stand up, turn around and have room for a food and water dish. Familiarize your dog with the crate before an emergency.
- You may wish to purchase a metal stake that twists into the ground with a place to fasten a chain for your dog as a last resort. If you stake the dog out be sure to provide protection from the hot sun, extreme cold, snow, or rain. When staking a dog out, be sure to use a chain or cable, not a leash that the dog can chew through. Also, make sure that the dog is not chained in a place that it can fall off and hang himself, like an elevated porch.

9. FIRST AID KIT

- Have a basic first aid kit, along with a first aid book for dogs
- Flea/tick prevention
- Include a muzzle, in case your dog is injured

10. MEDICATION

- Have a one week supply of any long-term medication your dog is taking. Rotate every 3 months so it remains fresh – keep in a waterproof container
- Medical Records

11. FAMILIAR ITEMS

- Include toys, treats or bedding that may comfort your dog

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Don't put off doing what you should do now – it may save your pets' life.

