

## Owning a Pet: Disaster Preparedness

If your pet is an important member of your family, you should include him or her in your family disaster plan. Preparing for a disaster now, will help your family – including your furry, feathered, or scaled friends – to be ready for an unexpected emergency.

Here are some of the things you can do to be prepared to care for your pet during a disaster:

- Assemble a Pet Disaster Kit (See inside panel).
- Get up-to-date identification tags with owners' contact information for every pet. Put tags on your pet's collar and harness.
- Microchip your pet so that it can be identified even if its tags are lost.
- Purchase a carrier and label it with your pet's name and emergency contact information.
- Crate train your pet so that it can be comfortable if it needs to stay in a crate in an emergency.
- Practice evacuating with your pet. Evacuating with animals will take more time, and practice before a disaster will make the process smoother.



### Missing/Lost Pet(s)

**Immediately** call or visit the nearest animal shelter to report your pet missing. When it is safe to return to your neighborhood, post "lost pet" posters with your pets information and a current picture. Don't give up! Continue to search your neighborhood for your pet, since frightened animals can stay hidden for days.

### Berkeley Animal Shelters

#### **Berkeley Animal Care Services**

**1 Bolivar Drive**

**Berkeley, CA 94710**

**(510) 981-6600**

[www.CityofBerkeley.info/animalservices](http://www.CityofBerkeley.info/animalservices)

#### **Berkeley Humane Society**

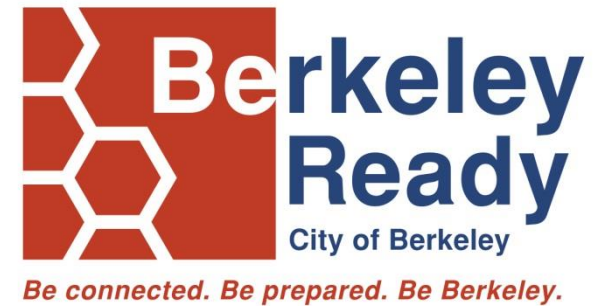
**2700 Ninth St**

**Berkeley, CA 94710**

**(510) 845-7735**

[www.Berkeleyhumane.org](http://www.Berkeleyhumane.org)

**For Alternative Formats email  
[ecallow@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:ecallow@cityofberkeley.info) or  
call 1-510-981-6418**



## Pet Preparedness



### **City of Berkeley**

[Ready@CityofBerkeley.info](mailto:Ready@CityofBerkeley.info)

(510) 981-5605 (Phone)

(510) 981-5544 (TTY/TDD)

[www.CityofBerkeley.info/Ready](http://www.CityofBerkeley.info/Ready)

## Preparing a Pet Disaster Kit

Prepare a disaster kit for each pet. Think of the basics that each animal would need for survival and immediate care in an emergency. All items listed below work for dogs, cats, pigs, rabbits, guinea pigs, birds, and reptiles.

- Food and water** for at least 7 days for each pet
- Food and water bowls** and a manual can opener and spoon
- Medications**
- Clean-up items** for bathroom accidents (paper towels, plastic trash bags, bleach-containing cleaning agent)
- Pet first aid kit**
- Leash and harness**
- Pet carrier**
- Litter box and litter**
- Recent photo of each pet**
- Phone numbers of local emergency veterinary hospital and animal shelter**
- Important Documents:**  
Vaccination records, Rabies certificate, and copy of registration

### Rabbits/Rodents:

- Ice chest** to store frozen vegetables and fruit

### Birds:

- Extra newspaper** to line bottom of cage
- Fruits and vegetables**

### Reptiles:

- Snakes can be transported in a **pillowcase**
- Heating pad**



**If you must evacuate,** take your pet with you if possible. If you are going to a shelter, it is important to know that not all animals are allowed inside.

- Designate a neighbor/friend/relative as an emergency contact and/or evacuation location (*preferably someone nearby who can evacuate your pet, or check on them, when you are unable*).
- Animal shelters will need your pet's medical records to make sure all of your pet's vaccinations are up to date (*include copies of documents in your disaster supply kit with a photo of each pet*).
- Learn about hotels or agencies that will take animals during emergencies

### Staying at Home with Pets...

- Bring pets inside immediately or into a closed space outside.
- Feed pets' moist or canned food so they will drink less water.
- Consider separating animals even if they usually get along. Stressful situations can give animals anxiety and act irrationally.

### If you need to evacuate but can't bring your pet with you...

- Plan to confine your pet to a safe indoor area (*You can raise the lid on the toilet and brace the bathroom door open so your pet can drink.*)
- DO NOT** leave your pet chained outside.
- Place a notice on the door advising what type of pets are inside and where they are located.

### Information to post on your door or front window, if you are leaving pets behind...

- ✓ Your contact information
- ✓ Vet contact information
- ✓ Number of pets (including location, type, description, and names)
- ✓ Location of animal emergency supplies

**TIP:** Having a laminated sheet already made that you can write with dry erasable markers to place in the front window will help speed up the evacuation process.

