



Disaster Preparedness for your BIRD

Are you prepared to take care of your bird when a disaster strikes? If not, NOW is the time to stock up on the items that you will need so that you will not get caught unprepared. Listed below is a handy shopping list for you to use. The next time you buy food or supplies for your bird, take this list with you. Don't put off doing what you should do now – it may just make the difference in being able to keep your bird alive when a disaster strikes.

SHOPPING FOR YOUR BIRD

Here are the supplies that you should have in a Disaster Kit for birds. Adjust the amounts, depending on the number of birds.

1. **FOOD:**
 - Always have a reserve supply of the type of food your bird is used to eating that would last two weeks.
 - Store food in an airtight, waterproof container and clearly mark all your containers with your personal info.
 - Rotate food at least once every three (3) months.
2. **WATER:**
 - Have enough drinking water to last at least two weeks for each bird in your household.
 - Store water in a cool, dark location, and be sure to rotate it so it remains fresh.
 - Remember that if the tap water is not suitable for humans to drink, it is also not suitable for birds to drink.
 - Include with your disaster supplies, an extra water dish, just in case the one normally used is lost.
 - Make sure you have enough water on hand for cleaning as well.
3. **SANITATION:**
 - Have paper towels in your disaster kit.
 - Have some plastic bags in your kit for disposing of your bird's dirty paper towels.
4. **CLEANING SUPPLIES:**
 - Include in your kit, a small container of soap for washing out and disinfecting the dishes and the bird cage.
 - Have at least a two-week supply of whatever it is that you put on the bottom of the cage (i.e., newspaper).
5. **PICTURES:**
 - You should keep some current photos of your bird in your disaster kit, to use in case your bird is lost during the disaster. Include yourself in some of the photos so you can prove ownership.
6. **CAGE FOR EVACUATION:**
 - You should have a small cage for transporting (evacuating) your bird and be sure it is one that your bird cannot chew his/her way out.
7. **FIRST AID SUPPLIES AND BOOK FOR BIRDS:**
 - Check with your veterinarian to find out what is recommended to be included in YOUR First Aid Kit for YOUR bird. Some suggested items include:
 - a) First Aid Book for Birds
 - b) Kwik Stop or corn starch to stop bleeding
 - c) Heavy duty gloves (for handling the bird if he/she is injured and trying to bite)
 - d) Bandaging materials
8. **MEDICATIONS:**
 - If your bird is on long-term medication, be sure you always have at least a two-week supply on hand. Your vet may not be available to open to refill a prescription.
9. **EXTRA SEED BOWLS AND WATER CONTAINER:**
 - Have several seed cups/water containers to replace ones that might get broken.
 - You may want to put an extra food and water dish in the cage, so that in case you forget to feed the bird in all the confusion, the bird will have plenty of food and water available.

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10. GRAVEL/CUTTLEBONE/BEAK CONDITIONER:
- _____ Have at least a two-week supply at all times. (Not for all types of birds.)
 - _____ Always have an extra cuttlebone / beak conditioner in your disaster kit.

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11. NET AND TOWEL:
- _____ A long-handled net with small enough openings so that your bird cannot poke his/her head through, and a heavy towel in case your bird escapes and you have to recapture him/her.
 - _____ A heavy towel/blanket should be with your kit in case disaster strikes when it is cold and you have to cover the cage to keep your bird warm.
 - _____ Some birds need to have the cage covered for sleep. Use a towel if you have to. Remember to try and pack a light cotton sheet in case a disaster happens during the hot summer.

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12. FLASHLIGHT AND BATTERIES:
- _____ This is used to regulate light hours for your bird, which is important for your bird's health.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

In addition to having the above supplies, here are some other suggestions to keep your bird safe:

- You may want to consider having your bird microchipped. Check with your veterinarian for more information about this permanent form of identification. Microchipping works great with birds since you cannot put a collar and tag around their neck.
- Check with your vet to see if the clinic has a disaster plan. Locate a backup vet in case your vet doesn't, and familiarize yourself with the ALERT headquarters during a disaster. They are trained to evacuate or look after all domestic animals during a disaster.
- Check to make sure that your cage is secure. All opening doors and a removable top or bottom on your cage should be fastened to prevent them from opening during a disaster – and your bird escaping. You can use twist ties or a carabiner to secure the cage. You should also secure the cage to a wall, using a hook and eye. Be sure you do not keep the cage under a shelf, where objects might fall during a disaster, or keep the cage near a window that might break during a disaster. Keep a pair of pliers and wire in your disaster kit to make any necessary repairs to the cage after the disaster.
- Keep handwarmers in your kit in case you have to supplement heat during a disaster.

If you would like more information about being prepared during a disaster, or becoming a trained disaster Volunteer for animals, or if you want someone to speak to a group regarding the Animal Lifeline Emergency Response Team, please contact:

Animal Lifeline Emergency Response Team (ALERT)

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