

## Disaster Preparedness for your CAT

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Are you prepared to take care of your cat 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 cat, 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 cat alive when a disaster strike.

### SHOPPING FOR YOUR CAT

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

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1. FOOD:

- Always have a reserve supply of the type of food your cat is used to eating that would last two weeks.
  - If your cat eats canned food, buy cans small enough to be used at one feeding since you may not have a way to properly refrigerate any leftover food. Buy pop-top cans if you can since you may not have access to a can opener (include in your kit, just in case).
  - 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.
  - Include with your disaster supplies, an extra feeding dish, just in case the one normally used is lost.
  - Include with your disaster supplies a spoon to scoop and/or mix food.
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2. WATER:

- Have enough drinking water to last at least two weeks for each cat 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 animals to drink.
  - Include with your disaster supplies, an extra water dish, just in case the one normally used is lost.
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3. SANITATION:

- Have a small litter box and scoop in your disaster kit.
  - Have enough cat litter to last at least two weeks.
  - Have some plastic bags in your kit for disposing of your cat's dirty kitty litter.
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4. CLEANING SUPPLIES:

- Include in your kit, a small container of soap for washing out your cat's food/water dishes.
  - Include in your kit, paper towels for drying dishes and other clean up.
  - If you will be housing your cat in a crate, include in your kit a disinfectant that can be used for cleaning.
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5. IDENTIFICATION / COLLARS:

- In addition to microchipping and tattoos, a proper fitting collar and an identification tag should be kept on your cat. An extra collar with an identification tag should be kept in your disaster kit.
  - On your spare identification tag, write your temporary address/phone number and attach to collar.
  - Keep a proper fitting cat harness just in case you have to keep your cat confined for an extended period of time and you need a secure way to take your cat out.
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6. PICTURES:

- You should have in your disaster kit, some current photos of your cat to use in case your cat is lost during the disaster. Include yourself in some of the photos so you can prove ownership.

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7. **CONFINING YOUR CAT TEMPORARILY:**
- \_\_\_\_\_ You may wish to purchase a plastic airline crate or a wire collapsible crate to confine your cat should you have to evacuate and/or keep your cat confined following a disaster. Be sure the crate is large enough for your cat to lay down comfortably and allow room for a food and water dish and litter tray. Remember that fences and walls come down during a disaster, making it easier for a cat to escape and get lost.
- \_\_\_\_\_ If your cat plays with toys, include in your kit some toys to keep your cat entertained.
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8. **FIRST AID KIT:**
- \_\_\_\_\_ Check with your veterinarian to find out what is recommended to be included in YOUR First Aid Kit for YOUR cat. Some suggested items include:
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| a) First Aid Book for Cats                     | f) Antiseptic Wipes (1 package)               |
| b) Conforming Bandage (3" x 5")                | g) Rescue Cream/Rescue Remedy                 |
| c) Absorbent Gauze Pads (4" x 4")              | h) Tweezers and Scissors                      |
| d) Absorbent Gauze Roll (3" x 3")              | i) Instant Cold Pack                          |
| e) Cotton Tipped Applicators (1 small box/bag) | j) Non-Latex Disposable Gloves (several pair) |
- \_\_\_\_\_ Be sure to have a proper fitting muzzle in your First Aid Kit, as an injured animal, no matter how friendly, may bite when in pain.
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9. **MEDICATIONS:**
- \_\_\_\_\_ If your cat is on long-term medication, always have on hand at least a two-week supply since your vet may not be available to open to refill a prescription.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Check with your vet to see if your clinic has a Disaster Plan. If not, familiarize yourself with the ALERT Reception Centres and procedures in case your cat needs medical attention during a disaster.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Keep copies of your cat's medical records, including records of vaccinations and medications in your disaster kit.
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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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