



Earthquake Preparedness for Pets and Service Animals

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In collaboration with Councilmen Tom LaBonge and Mitchell Englander, this month's Emergency Management Department (EMD) bulletin highlights earthquake planning for pets. For many of us, pets and service animals are a big part of our lives providing comfort, and in some cases, important services. Preparing for your pets and service animals prior to an earthquake will not only ensure their safety, but will also help reduce your stress following a disaster. Below are a number of things that you can do to prepare your pet and/or service animal before an earthquake strikes:

Pet and Service Animal Emergency Supply Kit

- **Food and water**
 - Keep 3 days of food and 3 days of water in airtight, waterproof containers specifically for your pets.
- **First aid kit**
 - Include cotton bandage rolls, bandage tape, scissors, antibiotic ointment, flea and tick prevention, latex gloves, isopropyl alcohol, saline solution.
 - Include a pet first aid reference book.
 - Keep one (1) copy of phone numbers with you and one (1) in your pet's emergency supply kit.
 - Include medical records, medical condition and medications (dosage and frequency), prescribing veterinarians' name and number in waterproof containers.
- **Back-up collar with ID tag, harness or leash**
 - Your pet should wear a collar with its rabies tag and identification at all times.
 - Include a backup leash, collar and ID tag in your pet's emergency supply kit.
- **Documents**
 - Place copies of your pet's registration information, adoption papers, and vaccination documents in a waterproof bag (like a clean plastic bag).
- **Crate or other pet carrier**
 - If you need to evacuate, take your pet(s) with you.
 - The pet carrier should be large enough for your pet to stand, turn around and lie down.
 - Label the carrier with a picture of you and your pet, pet's name, your name, address, phone number, email address and an emergency name with contact information.
- **Sanitation**
 - Keep pet litter, litter box, newspapers, paper towels, plastic trash bags and household chlorine bleach. Bleach can be used as a disinfectant (9 parts water to 1 part bleach) or to purify water (16 drops of liquid bleach per gallon of water). **Avoid** bleaches that are scented, color safe or contain added cleaners.
- **A picture of you and your pet together**
 - If you become separated from your pet, this picture helps document ownership and allows others to assist you in identifying your pet. Include information about species, breed, age, sex, and color.
- **Favorite toys, treats and bedding**
 - Familiar items can reduce stress for your pet.

Plan

- **Lodging**
 - Your pet(s) might or might **not** be allowed inside a public shelter. Service animals are permitted in all City of Los Angeles shelters.
 - Secure lodging in advance for your pets. Ask friends outside your area to take your pet.
- **Talk to your pet's veterinarian about emergency planning**
 - Get the names of vets or veterinary hospitals in other cities where you might seek temporary shelter.
 - Have your pet **micro chipped so that you can be reunited if you are separated.**
- **Gather contact information for emergency animal treatment**
 - Keep the contact information of animal control agencies (Humane Society, SPCA) and vet hospitals.
 - Alert rescuers by placing "Pets Inside" stickers on windows and write number and type of pets.
 - When you leave with your pets, consider putting a phone number on the "pets inside" sticker where you could be reached and write "Evacuated with Pets" across the sticker.