

# PREPARING YOUR PET FOR DISASTER

The "Big One" is coming. As residents of Northern California, we know it's coming and we know we should be prepared. But, did you know the "Big One" could be a big quake, big fire, or big flood? And, how prepared are you, really? Below are some helpful hints to help prepare you and your pet for a disaster.

✓**IDENTIFICATION.** Your pet should wear a collar and identification tag (rabies tag, San Mateo County dog or cat license, personal I.D. tag). Make sure all information on the tag is current.

✓**VACCINATIONS.** Your pet needs to be current on his/her vaccinations. Keep medical records in a safe place. You may be required to show proof of current vaccinations if you are forced to temporarily board your pet.

✓**TRANSPORTATION.** Each pet in your household should have his/her own pet carrier. A carrier makes transportation easy in the event of an evacuation and keeps your pet safe from falling debris. Make sure the carrier is large enough for your pet to sit down, lay down, stand up, and turn around. It is important to familiarize your pet with his/her carrier before disaster strikes.

✓**LEASHES.** Make sure you have a leash handy for every dog in your house. Slip leads can double as a collar and leash in an extreme emergency.

✓**SLEEPING QUARTERS.** Do not put your pet's bed near a window or under shelving. Windows can shatter during a quake showering your pet with glass. Shelving can collapse tossing books and other heavy objects down onto your pet.

✓**CHECK YOUR YARD.** Make sure all fencing is sturdy and secure. Also look for holes and other possible escape routes.

✓**PLAN AHEAD.** Human shelters may not welcome your pet. Make pre-disaster plans for post-disaster, temporary placement of your pet. Identify local boarding kennels, veterinarians with boarding facilities, motels that accept pets and/or make arrangements with friends or relatives.

*For information on how to make your own disaster preparedness kit and what to do if you lose your pet in a disaster, please turn the page over →→→→→→→→→→→→*



# PREPARING YOUR PET: PART TWO

## ✓DISASTER PREPAREDNESS KIT.

You can buy a kit at the store or make your own. Your kit might include the following:

A pet first-aid book.

A pet first-aid kit containing:

♦Tweezers

♦Gauze bandages and pads

♦Scissors

♦Hydrogen Peroxide

♦Rectal Thermometer

♦Antibiotic Ointment

♦Adhesive Tape

♦Petroleum Jelly

♦Muzzles

A pet supply box containing:

♦Two-week supply of pet food (rotate the bag so it doesn't go stale)

♦One-month supply of your pet's regular medications

♦Non-spill food and water bowls

♦Cat litter

♦Plastic bags (for pet waste disposal)

♦Sheet (one to cover each pet carrier)

♦Blankets

♦Freeze dried liver treats (to entice a dog that may be scared or stressed)

♦Water

♦Can-opener

♦Cat pan

♦Newspaper

♦Disinfectants

♦Paper towels

♦Comb/Brush

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU'VE LOST YOUR PET!

- Keep a current photo of your pet and jot down as many distinctive markings as you can remember.
- Create a flyer with your pet's photo and description, your name and phone number.
- Post the flyer in supermarkets, laundromats, schools, veterinary hospitals, local stores, local animal shelters, and emergency veterinary clinics. Also put them on bulletin boards, street corners, and bus stops. Leave flyers with all your neighbors, too!
- Visit your local animal shelter at least every other day, **if not every day.**
- Inform your mail carrier, neighborhood children, garbage collector, meter reader, and newspaper carrier of your lost pet.
- Check "Found Animal" ads in newspapers. Place a "Lost Animal" ad. Contact radio stations about airing lost pet announcements.
- If you've lost a purebred dog or cat, contact the rescue club for your breed. Also contact your breeder.
- Make sure all current/correct information is on file for license tags, traceable rabies tags, and any other traceable identification. If the information is not correct, change it with the proper agency.
- Check your neighborhood, or the area in which your animal was lost. Walk slowly and call his/her name. As you walk, occasionally jiggle a box of dry pet food or leave an article of your clothing in the area and check back at night. Your pet may be scared and only come out when it is quiet.
- Unneutered males will often travel farther than neutered ones. Expand your search accordingly.
- Rent or buy a humane box trap and try to catch your pet using this method.
- When you do find your pet, immediately examine him/her for illness or injuries. Use caution, panicky or injured animals may bite.

**REMEMBER, IF YOU DON'T FIND YOUR PET RIGHT AWAY, DON'T GIVE UP HOPE.  
IT'S NOT UNCOMMON FOR PEOPLE TO BE REUNITED WITH THEIR PETS  
WEEKS, OR EVEN MONTHS, AFTER THEY ARE LOST.**