



## Emergency Pet Preparedness

### **Step One: Rescue alert sticker**

This easy-to-use sticker will let people know that your pets are inside your home, in case you cannot. The card must be visible to rescue workers. It must contain 1) the types and numbers of pets in your household; 2) the name of your vet; and 3) your vet's phone number. To order a sticker, please call the shelter at (972) 418-PAWS, or come by and see us at 3201 Earhart Dr., Carrollton; close to the intersection of Keller Springs and Midway.

### **Step Two: Arrange a safe haven for your pets in the event of an evacuation**

**DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PETS BEHIND!** If you do, they may be at risk for injury or even death. Red Cross disaster shelters will not accept pets because of health and safety regulations. Contact your vet for a list of boarding facilities for use in the event of an emergency. Check with your local animal shelter to determine if they will act as an emergency shelter or help find foster care for your pets. Identify hotels and motels outside of your immediate area that accept pets. Ask friends and relatives outside your immediate area if they would be willing to take your pet.

### **Step Three: Emergency supplies and traveling kit**

- Pet first-aid kit and guide book
- Canned (pop-top) and dry food
- Disposable litter trays (aluminum roasting pans are perfect).
- Pet feeding dishes
- Extra leash
- Photocopies of medical records and a waterproof container with a two-week supply of any medication your pet requires. Remember that food and medications need to be rotated out of your emergency kit otherwise they will expire.
- Bottled water
- A pet traveling bag or sturdy carrier, ideally one for each pet.

- Flashlight
- Blanket (for scooping up your fearful pet)
- Photos of your pets (in case you are separated and need to make "lost" posters).

#### **Step 4: Choose "designated caregivers"**

This is something that should take considerable thought. You should make plans for a temporary caregiver in the event of emergency and arrange for a permanent home in the event you are no longer able to care for your pet. Be sure to discuss your expectations at length with your permanent "foster parent". Additionally, you will want to provide a trust fund to prepare for your pets financial future. Your attorney can help you provide for your pets in your will.

#### **Step 5: Evacuation Preparation**

- Store an emergency kit and leashes as close to an exit as possible.
- Make sure all pets are collared with up-to-date ID tags. The tag should include name, telephone number, and urgent medical needs.
- The ASPCA recommends microchipping your pet for permanent identification. This process involves a microchip being implanted in the shoulder area, and can be readily scanned at shelters and vets.
- Always bring pets indoors at the first sign or warning of disaster. Pets can become disoriented and wander away during a crisis.
- Consider your evacuation route and call ahead to make arrangements for boarding your pet outside of the danger area at the first sign of disaster.

#### **Step 6: Geographic and Climactic Considerations:**

Texas is prone to tornadoes and flooding. Plan accordingly.

- Locate rooms in your home that offer safe haven. Interior rooms with no windows are the best choice. Access to a supply of fresh water is very important.
- In the event of flooding, look for the highest location in your house and provide access to these areas.

