

# ***Pet Preparedness***

**T**he following information provides general guidelines for preparing pets or animals for emergency and disaster situations. **For health reasons only service animals are allowed in evacuation shelters**, so it is vital as pet owners to consider and prepare for your pets before disaster strikes.

## ***Before a Disaster***

- ❑ Assemble a pet emergency kit prior to all emergencies and include items such as:
  - Water and food
  - Leash, harness or muzzle
  - Copy of all updated vaccinations and licenses
  - Any medication
  - A pet carrier or cage
  - Plastic bags for sanitation purposes
  - Photo identification of your pet
  - Manual can opener
  - Any pertinent containers (e.g., food dishes, litter boxes, etc.)

**Make sure the items in this kit will last at least three days. Place kits in your vehicle or at pre-designated locations prior to evacuation.**

- ❑ If asked to evacuate your area do not leave pets behind - there is a chance they may not survive or they may get lost before you return.
- ❑ Know your pet's hiding places so that you can easily find them when evacuating your location, so time is not lost.
- ❑ Make a list of hotels, kennels and boarding facilities that allow for animals, including locations outside your immediate area.
- ❑ Note all kennels and boarding facilities require veterinarian records to prove vaccinations are current, so make sure all records are updated.
- ❑ Use animal shelters as a last resort due to the possibility of normal overcrowding.
- ❑ Use friends and family for assistance.
- ❑ Be sure your pet has proper identification tags securely fastened to the collar.

## ***During and After Disaster***

Be cautious when approaching wild animals during or after emergency situations. Remember, most animals are disoriented and displaced, too.

- ❑ Do not corner them. Animals will likely feel threatened.
- ❑ If an animal is trapped seek assistance from a professional animal control officer or a certified handler.
- ❑ Wild animals such as snakes, opossums, and raccoons may seek refuge anywhere possible, including in homes or businesses. If you encounter animals in this situation, open a window, door or another escape route and allow the animal to leave on its own.
- ❑ Do not attempt to capture or handle the animal and should the animal stay, call your local animal control office or animal shelter.
- ❑ If you see an injured or stranded animal, do not approach or attempt to help. Call your local animal control office or animal shelter.
- ❑ Keep away from all animal carcasses due to the possible presence of serious health risks and contact your local health department for specific help and instructions.
- ❑ Animals may carry rabies and care should be taken to avoid contact with all stray animals, especially rodents.
- ❑ If any animal bites you, seek immediate medical attention.