

Plan to Protect Pets during Disasters

Our pets enrich our lives in more ways than we can count. They depend on us for their safety and well-being. The best way to protect your family and pets from the effects of a disaster is to have a plan. No matter what the disaster; natural, biological, radiological or terrorist attack, being prepared can save lives.

During Evacuations

If the event of the disaster requires you to evacuate, the most important thing you can do to protect your pets is to evacuate them with you. Animals left behind in a disaster can be easily injured, lost or killed. Animals turned loose to fend for themselves are likely to become victims of exposure, starvation, predators or affected by contaminated food and water. Animals left tied, chained or locked up in a disaster is a death sentence.

Find a Safe Haven

In the event of an evacuation you will need a safe place for you and your pets. Typically, evacuation shelters do not accept pets, except for service animals. Do your research ahead of time. Locate hotels and motels that accept pets. Make a list of boarding facilities and veterinarian offices that might be able to shelter animals. Contact friends and families outside of your immediate area that would be willing to take in your pets in the event of an emergency.

Have ID

Pets should wear up to date identification at all times. Include phone number of a friend or relative outside your immediate area, this will help in the event that your not home.

What if you're not Home?

Disaster may strike while you are at work or out of the house. Make arrangements with a trusted neighbor or friend who lives nearby to take your pets and meet you at a pre-arranged location. The person should have a key to your home, be comfortable with your pets and know where your emergency supplies (disaster kit) and phone numbers are kept.



Birds, Small Mammals & Reptiles

Birds should be transported in a secure covered cage. Place a blanket over the cage in cold weather and carry a spray bottle with water to moisten feathers in warmer months. Use leg bands for proper identification.

Reptiles should be transported in a secure non breakable carrier. Pillow cases can be used for snakes. Bring along a heating pad and a bowl of water large enough for soaking.

Small mammals (hamsters, gerbils, mice, guinea pigs) should be transported in a covered cage or carrier with bedding material, food and food bowls.

LIVINGSTON ANIMAL RESPONSE GROUP

The Livingston Animal Response Group (LARG) was established on November 17, 2006 in order to address all animal issues that could arise during any type of disaster in Livingston County. The LARG is comprised of local/state veterinarians, MSU-Extension, Animal Control, Red Cross, Health Department as well as other local industries. Our efforts are to put forth detailed and user friendly plans for Livingston County to utilize in the event of a disaster.

Failure to plan for animals prior to an emergency may lead to serious public health concerns and affect the viability of disaster plans for people. Many people will not evacuate without their animals and these refusals or delays cause a reaction that can seriously jeopardize any disaster plan. Injured, ill, or dead animals can pose disease and injury hazards to the public, which may add strain to an already over-taxed emergency response effort.

The efforts of LARG rely on you. Our plans can only provide guidance and direction. Without proper planning from pet owners, problems will occur, lives will be lost and the disaster situation will magnify. Do your part and be PREPARED.

For further information on LARG or to become a volunteer resource in case of emergency please contact Livingston County Animal Control @ 517-546-2154

In the event of a disaster, you may be required to evacuate. Therefore, having a **Disaster Preparedness Kit** stocked and ready is essential. Suggested items for your kit:

- A secure, portable carrier
- Identification tags
- Collar, leash, harness
- Pet Food (non perishable)
- Manual can opener
- Bottled water
- Non-spill water and food bowls
- Pet waste clean-up supplies (plastic bags, paper towels, newspapers, handy wipes, disinfectant)
- Medications (with instructions) and updated vaccination records
- First Aid Kit
- Pet comfort items (towel, blanket, toy)
- Important phone numbers (veterinarian, emergency clinic, kennels, hotels that accept pets)
- Recent photo of you and your pet
- Flashlight and extra batteries



This information was developed by the **Livingston County Department of Public Health** in consultation with: **American Red Cross, Michigan State University Extension, Livingston County Animal Control and the Michigan Department of Agriculture**



<http://www.co.livingston.mi.us/health/>



<http://co.livingston.mi.us/msuextension/>



<http://www.redcross.org/>



<http://www.michigan.gov/mda/>

LCAC

Livingston County Animal Control
<http://co.livingston.mi.us/animalcontrol/>

For further information on disaster planning for animals, refer to the following websites:

<http://www.michigansart.org/>

<http://www.hsus.org/>

<http://www.avma.org/>

<http://www.ready.gov/>

Disaster Preparedness for Pets in Livingston County



When disaster strikes, don't be caught unprepared.



Your pet is an important part of your family, be there for them when they need you most.