

# DURING AND AFTER THE DISASTER

## During an earthquake:

If the ground starts shaking, do not try to hold onto your pet during the shaking. Animals will instinctively protect themselves and hide where they are safe.

## After a disaster:

- Be patient with your pets after a disaster. Pets get stressed just as people do and may need to readjust.
- Reintroduce food in small servings, gradually working up to full portions if animals have been without food for a prolonged period of time.
- Allow uninterrupted rest/sleep for all animals to recover from the trauma and stress.
- Familiar scents and landmarks may have changed, and this can confuse your animals. Release cats, dogs, and other small animals indoors only. They could encounter dangerous wildlife and debris if they are allowed outside unsupervised and unrestrained.
- If you have outdoor pets, you should consider bringing them inside after an earthquake. Keep them inside until the threat of aftershock has disappeared and your pet has had time to calm down.

- Release birds and reptiles only if necessary and only when they are calm and in an enclosed room.
- Remember, pets are not allowed in shelters. If you must evacuate for a short time, leave your pet in a secure place with ample water and food. If possible, return daily to check on your pet until you can return to your home permanently.
- Listen to the radio for information where shelters will be set up and ready to open in your area. This may take three or more days depending on the extent of the damage. That is why it is so important to be ready to take care of yourself, your family and your neighbors for a minimum of three days!
- Physically check animal control and animal shelters DAILY for lost animals.
- Post lost animal notices and notify local veterinarians and your neighbors of any lost animals (visit [www.missingpet.net](http://www.missingpet.net) for lost and found).



## Seattle Emergency Preparedness Education Program

*Getting Ready*

*Getting Connected*

*Getting Strong*



Seattle Office of Emergency Management

2320 4th Ave

Seattle, WA 98112

206-233-5076

[www.seattle.gov/emergency\\_mgt](http://www.seattle.gov/emergency_mgt)



Seattle Animal Shelter

2061 15th Ave. West

Seattle, WA 98119

Customer service: 206-386-PETS

[www.seattleanimalshelter.org](http://www.seattleanimalshelter.org)



## DISASTER PREPAREDNESS FOR PET OWNERS



*Pets are family too!*

# PET PREPAREDNESS

All responsible pet owners need to think about how they will take care of their animals when disaster strikes. The same advice for human preparedness goes for preparing for your pets. Be prepared to take care of yourself, your family (including pets) and your neighbors for a minimum of three days without any help from the City resources.

For health and space reasons, pets are not allowed in public emergency shelters. However, in most states, trained guide dogs for persons with disabilities will be allowed to stay in emergency shelters with their owners.

## PETS ARE FAMILY TOO!

Make arrangements for your pets as part of your household disaster planning. If you must evacuate your home, it's always best to take your pets with you. If, as a last resort, you have to leave your pets behind, make sure you have a plan to ensure their care.



# BEFORE THE DISASTER

## BEFORE THE DISASTER

- Store enough food and water to last a minimum of three days, longer if possible.
- Prepare an evacuation kit for your pet. The kit should include:
  - An unbreakable dish
  - Medications and instructions (enough for 7 to 10 days if possible)
  - A leash and pet carrier
  - Your pet's veterinary records
- For housing purposes, cat carriers should be large enough to hold a small litter pan and two small dishes and still allow your cat enough room to lie down comfortably or stand to use the litter pan. Dog kennels or collapsible cages should be large enough to hold two non-spill bowls and still allow enough room for your dog to stand and turn around. For added assurance, clearly label each carrier with your identification and contact information.
- Consider having a permanent microchip implanted in your pet; this ID cannot be lost or removed.
- Make arrangements with a neighbor or a relative that lives nearby to care for your pet in the event you are unable to return home immediately following a disaster. Identify hotels and motels nearby that allow pets.

- Make sure your pet's ID tag is up to date with accurate information.
- Secure bird cages and fish tanks. They can move and break during a disaster, especially an earthquake. Secure fish tanks with industrial strength Velcro and have the tanks on low stands or tables. Tighten the latch on your bird cage so that the door cannot be shaken open easily.
- When organizing your neighborhood to help each other in disaster, include pet preparedness and response in your neighborhood plan. For more information on organizing your neighborhood, contact the Seattle Office of Emergency Management at 206-233-5076.



# PET PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST

Assemble a kit that is easy to carry and easy to get to! Prepare to be self-sufficient for a minimum of three days, longer if possible.

- ☐ Pet carrier or cage for each pet
- ☐ Food/water with non-spill bowls
- ☐ Manual can opener
- ☐ Medication and dosing
- ☐ Pet first-aid kit
- ☐ Vaccination, medical records, and current photo
- ☐ Your veterinarian's information
- ☐ Cat litter box and litter
- ☐ Newspaper
- ☐ Plastic bags for waste disposal
- ☐ Paper towels
- ☐ Disinfectant
- ☐ Leash and collar/harness
- ☐ Blankets
- ☐ Toys and treats

## Pet First Aid Kit

- ☐ Large and small bandages
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Tweezers
- ☐ Q-Tips
- ☐ Antibiotic Ointment
- ☐ Hydrogen Peroxide
- ☐ Elastic tape
- ☐ Eye wash (saline)
- ☐ Ear cleaning solutions
- ☐ K-Y Jelly