

Emergency Preparedness Fact Sheet

Allegheny County Emergency Services

Fact Sheet # 5

Emergency Preparedness for Your Pet

Pet ownership in the U.S. has more than tripled from the 1970s. In 2012, 164 million households owned pets. For Allegheny County's households, it's estimated that 372,000 or 62% include at least one pet. For many, those pets are an important part of your household. Just like with the remainder of your family, planning done today ensures that your pet will be prepared for emergencies tomorrow.



5 Easy Ways to Prepare Your Pet

1

Identify a shelter. While every effort will be made to provide for shelters that take people and pets, have a back up plan. Track down a pet-friendly safe place for your family and pets.

2

Pack a pet kit. Take pet food, bottled water, medications, veterinary records, cat litter/pan, manual can opener, food dishes, first aid kit and other supplies with you in case they're not available later. Each pet is unique, but each animal needs the basics in case of an emergency.

3

Update your pet's ID. Make sure identification tags are up to date and securely fastened to your pet's collar. If possible, attach the address and/or phone number of your evacuation site. If your pet gets lost, his tag is his ticket home.

4

Protect your pet during a disaster. Animals have instincts about severe weather changes and will often isolate themselves if they are afraid. Bringing them inside early can stop them from running away. Even if your dogs and cats normally get along, the anxiety of an emergency situation can cause pets to act irrationally. Understanding what to expect during a disaster is crucial.

5

Keep an eye on your pet after an emergency. The behavior of your pets may change after an emergency. Normally quiet and friendly pets may become aggressive or defensive. Watch animals closely. Leash dogs and place them in a fenced yard with access to shelter and water. Familiar scents and landmarks may be altered and your pet may become confused and lost. Remember to keep taking care of them even after the disaster.

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