



# Pet Care Essentials

Arrange a safe haven for your pets *in advance* in the event of evacuation. Do not leave your pets behind. Remember, if it isn't safe for you, it isn't safe for your pets. They may become trapped or escape and be exposed to numerous life-threatening hazards. Note that not all shelters accept pets, so it is imperative that you have determined where you will bring your pets ahead of time. Choose "Designated Caregivers" in your family and/or neighborhood.

## What to Pack

- Food
    - At least a five-day supply in an airtight, waterproof container
    - 3-7 days' worth of canned (pop-top) or dry food. Be sure to rotate every two months.
  - Water
    - At least five days of water specifically for your pets. Bottled tap water is fine.
  - Medicines and medical records
    - Kennels, veterinarians and shelters will need your pet's medical records to make sure all vaccinations are current
  - Important documents
    - Registration, adoption, and vaccination info. Talk to your veterinarian about microchipping.
  - First aid kit
    - Cotton bandage rolls, bandage tape and scissors; antibiotic ointment; flea and tick medication/prevention; latex gloves, isopropyl alcohol; saline solution; and a pet first aid book
  - Collar/harness, ID tag, rabies tag and leash
  - Crate or pet carrier
    - Sturdy, safe crate large enough for your pet to stand, turn around and lie down. Even better to have room for food bowls, bed and litter box.
  - Sanitation
    - Newspapers as crate liner, paper towels, plastic trash bags and household bleach.
    - Aluminum roasting pans make great disposable litter trays. Don't forget litter.
    - Liquid dish soap and disinfectant
  - A picture of you and your pet together
    - If you become separated, a picture of you and your pet together will help you document ownership and allow others to assist you.
    - Add species, breed, age, sex, color and distinguishing characteristics.
    - A USB thumb drive containing all information.
  - Other
    - Familiar items like treats, toys and bedding can reduce stress for your pet
- Visit [www.getreadyatherton.org](http://www.getreadyatherton.org) for more emergency supply recommendations.



## Special Considerations

Note that pets naturally go into “fight or flight” mode after an emergency. Unattended animals may go feral, and stray dogs will form a survival pack. Also, humans are often injured trying to recover pets after an emergency. Preparedness is important – take the time now to make sure you have plans and supplies in place for all of your pets.

Experts recommend having an extra carrier set aside just for emergencies, with all of the necessary supplies stored inside the carrier, including a pillowcase. Add a laminated copy of the pet’s photo ID to the top, and a bright label on the side that reads “Live Animal”. The pillowcase can come in handy if your pet is scared and needs to be safely contained.

For community preparedness, designate a home in the neighborhood to be the pet care area in case of a local disaster. A house with a backyard and/or gated areas is ideal.

## Recommended Reading

- “Pets and Animals” from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): <https://www.ready.gov/pets>
- “Disaster Preparedness” from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA): <https://www.aspca.org/pet-care/general-pet-care/disaster-preparedness>
- “10 Items you’ll Need for your Pets...” from FEMA: <https://www.fema.gov/blog/pet-preparedness-10-items-youll-need-your-pets-hurricane-emergency-kit>

## About A.D.A.P.T.

### Our Mission

Atherton Disaster and Preparedness Team’s mission, in partnership with the Atherton Police Department, is to train and organize Atherton residents to be resilient, responsive, capable and recovery-able in the event of a town-wide emergency or disaster event.

### How to Participate

Preparedness is a community-wide effort and we’re here to help. Subscribe to our email newsletter, join our monthly meetings, attend a neighborhood training, or participate in any way that works for you! For more information, please see [www.getreadyatherton.org](http://www.getreadyatherton.org).

*Notes from A.D.A.P.T. Community Meeting, February 1, 2020  
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