

Be Prepared!

Because you want to be with your pet always

Disaster measures for pets



**Disaster can strike when you least expect.
It's important to stay alert and be prepared in daily life
so that you, your family,
and your pets are able to evacuate safely.**

1. Be prepared for disaster

Disaster response steps you can take at home.

The safety of pet owners comes first.

By making quake-resistant reinforcements to your home and securing your furniture, you can make your home safe for both you and your pets.

Make sure to regularly inspect areas where your pets usually spend their time, and check to see that their cages and other equipment are securely held in place so that they can stay in the area safely even during a disaster.

If you keep your pet indoors

Make sure that your furniture, your pet's cage, and other equipment are fastened securely to keep them from tipping over or falling during an earthquake. If you have an aquarium, fasten it to its table and apply anti-shattering film on its glass surfaces.



If you keep your pet outdoors

Keep your pet's living area away from concrete block walls, glass windows, and buildings that could collapse. Inspect their collars and chains regularly to make sure that they are in good condition, and that there are no gaps in their cages or partitions.



Involve your entire family.

Discuss various disaster scenarios with your family. Before you decide to get a pet, discuss whether you would be able to protect your pet and evacuate with it during a disaster and what type of animal (species) you would like to have as your pet. Be sure to discuss the following.

- How family members will get in touch with each other.
- Where your emergency supplies, including evacuation bags, are stored and what they contain.
- How you intend to protect and evacuate your pet.
- What actions to take if a disaster strikes when no one is home.



Cooperation with your neighbors and other pet owners is critical during a disaster.

To establish a good relationship with your neighbors and ensure that you are able to help each other during a disaster, make sure to communicate regularly with others, observe good pet owner etiquette, and discuss disaster mitigation with your neighbors and other pet owners in your area. Make arrangements for a person or place that can accommodate your pet in an emergency.

Gather information about your area and take part in evacuation drills.

Check the disaster mitigation plans for your area, and identify evacuation shelters and multiple evacuation routes so that you can evacuate safely. Perform a family drill to see how your family can reach the evacuation shelter with your pet. Check how long it will take to get there and identify any hazards that you might encounter along the way. Also, discuss how pet owners can evacuate with their pets at disaster response meetings and evacuation drills held in your area.

Disaster drill checkpoints

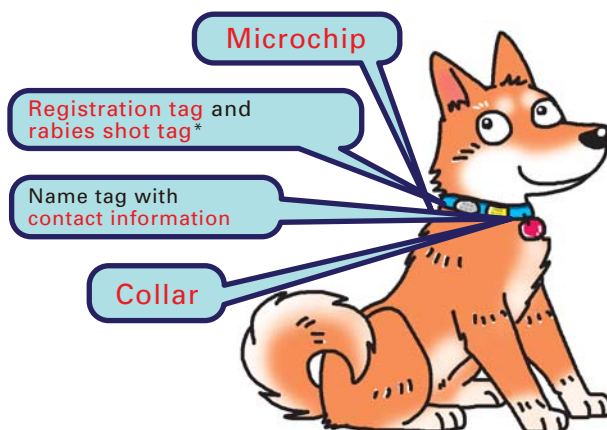
- The time it takes to reach the evacuation shelter
- Areas with hazards such as broken glass or falling signboards
- Alternative routes in case your route of choice is inaccessible
- Your pet's reaction and behavior at the evacuation shelter
- Care for people who are not comfortable around animals



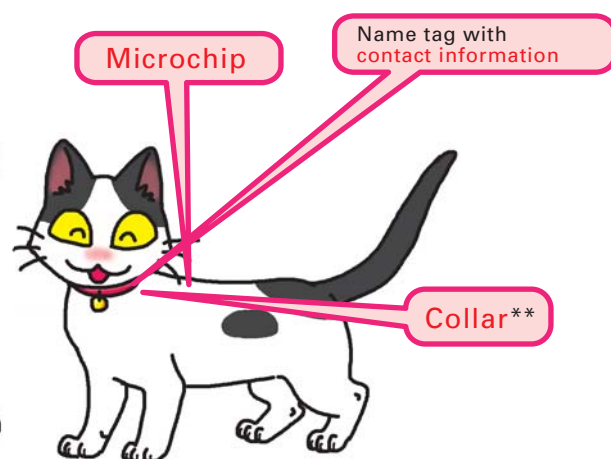
Name tag and microchip

Make sure that identification is attached to your pet at all times. Attach a name tag, leg ring for birds, etc. You can take the extra step of microchipping your pet as a semi-permanent means of identification.

DOGS



CATS



* The Rabies Prevention Act requires dog owners to have their dogs wear their registration tag and rabies shot tag.

** To prevent cats from becoming trapped, cat collars should be designed to come lose when force is applied.



There have been many cases where smaller dog breeds and cats that usually spend all of their time indoors went outside in a panic during a disaster and consequently went missing. Make sure to leave their collar on at all times. Additionally, some pets may lose their collar due to weight loss while they are lost away from home, so be sure to microchip them as well.

Other animals

Use leg rings and ear tags depending on the type of animal, and be sure to microchip them.

Health management and training

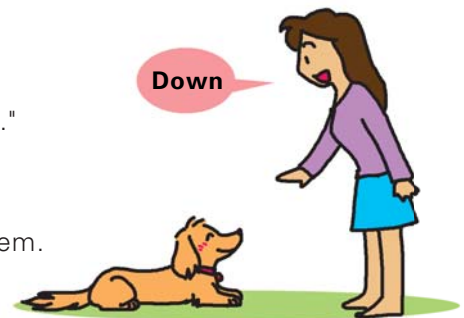
Disasters are a stressful time for people and animals alike. Unfamiliar living conditions can have an adverse effect on health.

Make sure to pay attention to your pet's health and keep them clean. Also make sure that they are properly immunized and are free of lice and other external parasites.

Make sure to train your pet so that they are used to staying in a carrying bag or cage, so they do not bark or make noise unnecessarily, and so they are friendly to other people. These steps will help reduce the stress on your pet, so they are as much for your pet as they are for other people.

DOGS

- Can follow basic commands such as "Wait," "Sit," and "Down."
- Does not resist going into its cage.
- Does not bark unnecessarily.
- Does not fear other people or become aggressive toward them.
- Eliminates in designated areas.
- Has received rabies shots and vaccination.
- Has undergone prevention or treatment for heartworms and other parasites.



CATS

- Does not resist going into its cage or carrying bag.
- Does not fear people or other animals.
- Eliminates in a cat litter box.
- Has been properly vaccinated
- Has undergone prevention or treatment for parasites.



Familiarizing your pet with its cage

Let your pet get used to your day-to-day routine so that it will be comfortable staying in its cage quietly. It will be much easier for your pet to remain calm in a familiar cage, even in the unfamiliar environment of an evacuation shelter. This will make things much easier for you as well. This habit can also be useful in everyday life, for example, when you have to leave your pet alone at home, when you have guests, or when you travel by car.

- Leave the cage open regularly so that your pet can use it as a resting place.
- Praise your pet when you see it relaxing inside its cage.
- Make sure that the cage is associated with pleasant experiences by giving your pet treats or meals in the cage.
- Make sure that the cage is not associated with unpleasant experiences, such as visits to the vet, or by using it as a place to detain your pet for "time out."
- Make sure the cage is large enough for your pet to lie down in, but not too large or too small.
- A cage made of stiffer material provides better safety than one made of softer material.
- Your pet will have a familiar space to stay in and this can help reduce stress.
- By making the cage a safe place for your pet, it may voluntarily take refuge in it when disaster strikes.



Preparing supplies for your pets

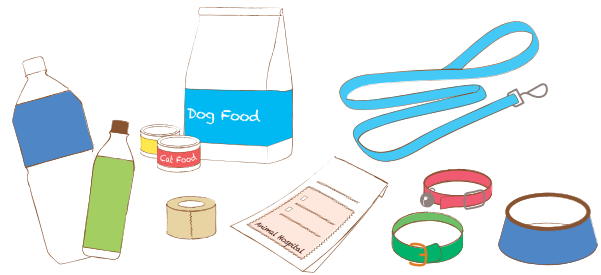
Make sure to stockpile necessary emergency supplies to take with you when you evacuate. As a rule, pet owners are responsible for providing supplies for their own pets. Since relief supplies may not be available immediately, make sure to have enough supplies to last for at least five days. Assign priorities to items to take with you during an evacuation, and organize your supplies so that you can take your high priority items on short notice.

Checklist

Priority 1

Items that are critical to life and health

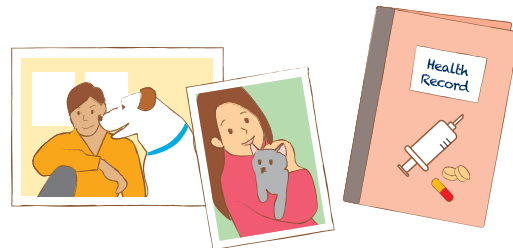
- Therapeutic foods and medication
- Food and water (at least 5 days' worth)
- Extra collar and leash
(the leash should be fixed length, not retractable)
- Food bowls
- Cloth packing tape
(for repairing cages and a variety of other uses)



Priority 2

Pet and owner information

- Pet owner contact numbers
- Photos of your pet
- Vaccination information
- Existing medical conditions, current health
- Regular veterinarian, etc.



Priority 3

Pet supplies

- Pet sheets
- Items for handling excrement
- Litter box items
(for cats, make sure to include litter that your cat is used to)
- Towels
- Brush
- Toys
- Laundry net (large enough to hold your cat in), etc.



Save photos of your pet on your cell phone.
This can help identify you as the pet's owner.



2. Actions to take if and when disaster strikes

People's safety comes first.

Ensure your own safety. Stay calm and then take actions to protect yourself and your pet.

Earthquakes

The main shaking of an earthquake usually lasts for only a short time, so protect your head with cushions, magazines, or other items. Once the shaking stops, turn off any flames in your house, and open your front door to secure an evacuation route.



Your pet's safety

Disasters can cause animals to panic and become agitated so be careful not to be bitten when you extend your hand to care for them. If you are upset, your pet will notice. So stay calm, and calm your pet down by speaking to it as you normally would. Leash your dog and place your cat in a familiar cage.

Stay calm when you prepare to evacuate

Get out your emergency pack, and turn off the main on your electrical panel and your main gas valve. When you evacuate, you are expected to practice "**accompanied evacuation**" (*doko hinan*) as the owner of your pet.

Accompanied evacuation refers to the act of safely evacuating, with your pet, to your evacuation shelter in the event of a disaster.

DOGS

- Leash your dog and make sure its collar is not loose.
- With smaller dogs, you can leash it and then place it in a carrying bag.

CATS

- Place your cat in a carrying bag or cage.
- Tape carrying bag flaps with cloth packing tape to keep your cat from escaping.

Evacuating to the shelter

Follow evacuation instructions and take your pet with you. People and animals may be upset and behave differently from usual. Hold your pet's leash tightly, hold your carrying bag closely (secure its flaps with cloth packing tape so that they do not open), and remain mindful of your pet's safety.

You may encounter hazards such as toppled buildings or downed power lines on the way to your evacuation shelter. Stay calm and watch where you step and look out for falling objects.



3. Things to keep in mind at evacuation shelters and temporary housing sites

Consideration for those around you

While many former evacuees have said that animals were a calming and supportive presence at evacuation shelters, there has also been a fair share of problems with barking and people getting bit, as well as hygienic concerns from drifting animal hair.

Some evacuees may not like animals or may have allergies, and there will likely also be many children at evacuation shelters. So, pet owners are expected to handle their pets with extra care and consideration for others.

At the evacuation shelter, pet owners are responsible for caring for their pets, acquiring their food, and managing their feeding areas. Pet owners should help each other and establish rules in consideration of others.

When moving into temporary housing, unnecessary problems can be avoided by designating areas where pets are and are not allowed before moving in.



Managing your pet's health

Animals experience a great deal of stress during disasters. Resources and supplies may also run low. Weakened immune systems and less than ideal hygienic conditions may cause both people and animals to become weak and ultimately fall ill.

To maintain proper hygiene, pet owners must have their pets eliminate in designated areas and clean up as quickly as possible.

Animals can also be affected by stress, resulting in unnecessary barking, aggressiveness, appetite loss, constipation, or diarrhea. Make sure to be mindful of their health and reduce any sources of anxiety.



If you are staying in your vehicle during an evacuation, be aware of deep vein thrombosis and heat stroke!

Be careful about deep vein thrombosis, which can be caused by poor circulation in your legs, and heat stroke. The interior of your vehicle can get very hot, so be mindful of the high temperature in your vehicle and the availability of drinking water for your pet.





The disaster mitigation checklist



Disaster Preparation

- Have you taken disaster mitigation measures in your home (earthquake protection measures, etc.)?
- Have you discussed disaster mitigation with your family?
- Have you discussed disaster mitigation with others in your community and other pet owners?
- Have you checked the disaster mitigation plan for your area?
- Have you performed a drill in which your family evacuates with your pet?
- Have you arranged for a place where you can temporarily leave your pet?
- Have you prepared evacuation equipment for your pet, such as cage and carrying bag?
- Have you attached a name tag (and registration tag and rabies shot tag for dogs) and microchipped your pet?
- Have you given your pet necessary training and taken steps to manage its health, including immunization?
- Have you made preparations to hold out for several days even if vital utilities are down?
- Have you prepared items to take with you for an emergency evacuation?
(Double check the list shown on page 5.)

