

PET EMERGENCY EVACUATION ESSENTIALS

In the Pacific Northwest, we can be hit by wildfires, floods, or a **major earthquake**. You may also have a house fire that forces you out. Create a “Dog Emergency Box” **NOW** in order to safely evacuate your dog with you! Here’s what to take when you and your dog must leave for a safe location:

1. IDENTIFICATION:

- A. **MICROCHIP:** Make sure your dog is microchipped. Put the microchip number on labels and stick them on the back of your driver’s license or other item that you keep with you at all times, and on the inside of your “Dog Emergency Box.”
- B. **PHOTOS:** Take full body and head photographs of your dog. Then take one of you and your dog **together** (in case you need to prove ownership). Make color copies of the photos.
- C. **MEDICAL RECORDS:** Copy your dog’s rabies and other vaccination records (all medical records would be best).
- D. **COLLAR & TAGS:** Purchase a spare martingale collar and then: (1) Add tags with your mobile and an out-of-state contact phone number; and (2) Add a blank “write-on” tag to use at whatever location you may wind up in. (A harness, can be worn as a “back-up” to a collar as identification and control if your dog panics in an emergency and gets out of his collar. It can also safely secure a dog in a vehicle.)
- E. **ICE:** Program an “ICE” (In Case of Emergency) phone number of a dog-handling relative/friend into your cell phone. (A cell phone is now the first place an emergency worker will look for a way to contact someone if you are incapacitated.) Purchase an inexpensive back-up battery, the type that uses regular batteries, for your cell phone.

2. FOOD, WATER, MEDICATION

- A. **FOOD/WATER:** Have food and fresh water for each dog for at least two weeks, with a dish. (Keep rotating food and water to keep fresh.) Overestimate the water! It may be winter, but it may also be 85 degrees when you need this water. A large round cooler can hold water and the top can double as a dish if the spare dish goes missing. Don’t forget your dog’s regular treats – he will need “comfort food,” too!
- B. **MEDS/SUPPLEMENTS:** Obtain at least a two-week supply of any prescription medication your dog requires. Also include any supplements that your dog takes regularly.
- C. **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write out feeding and medication instructions and any special information a caregiver would need.
- D. **CAN OPENER:** A manual can opener if your dog eats canned food

3. SHELTER & CONFINEMENT

- A. **CRATE:** Crate and/or X-pen (a collapsible cloth crate may work for short term confinement, but a wire crate should be included for more reliable confinement); Plastic sheeting; Blanket/Quilt for the bottom of the crate/x-pen; Bungees/ zip-ties. Also, include a small toy.
- B. **LEASH/COLLAR:** A 6’ leash & martingale collar (with identification (see IDENTIFICATION above)
- C. **TARP:** A tarp for rain/sun protection.
- D. **COAT:** A warm coat for your dog.

4. FIRST AID & SANITATION

- A. A box of gallon plastic bags, or other plastic bags, for “poop” clean up and disposal.
- B. A bag of disposable gloves.
- C. Paper towel
- D. Disinfectant for cleaning crates
- E. First Aid Kit: Dog First Aid Book; Vet tape; Gauze roll and pads; Antiseptic wipes & ointment; Anti-itch spray; Flea treatment; Tweezers and scissors; Instant cold pack; Aspirin; Benadryl; Anti-diarrhea; Hydrogen peroxide; Muzzle; Flashlight. Last minute: Add an article with your scent for your dog’s emotional comfort.

5. PLAN:

- A. Make a “Dog Emergency Box” for each dog. Pack **all of the above** items (except the bed/crate/water) into an “Emergency Box.” A large Rubbermaid-type tub works well. **Put the crate and water jug(s) next to your dog’s emergency box** . Keep it all where you can get to it easily in an emergency.
- A. You should have an Emergency Box for each pet. Do not store Emergency Boxes in the kitchen or the garage. These are frequently the areas where fires start. Emergency Boxes and their contents should be easily retrieved and kept in rodent, ant, moisture proof containers. Check the contents of the Emergency Boxes twice a year when the clocks change for daylight savings. Rotate all foods into use and replace with fresh food every two months. Rotate any medications so that they do not expire.
- B. Where will you go? Are you positive your dog will be accepted there? Have at least two places.
- C. What if you’re away from home and can’t get back? Can a neighbor help your dog?
- D. Know your dog’s common and favorite hiding places. Once the chaos starts, this is where you will find him.
- E. Make a list of the places where you can get veterinary care, food, shelter and housing for your pets in an emergency. Find out what they provide and what they would need from you. Make a commitment to gather this information now.