

Evacuation Kit for people with pets

An Evacuation kit should contain at least the following items. It should also be in an easy to carry, waterproof container that is stored in a closet or basement. You could create separate kits for the humans, dogs, cats, horses, etc. that live with you. It is recommended that you only remove an item from the kit if you need it to help you evacuate or if you are replacing an item that has an old expiration date with an item that has a newer expiration date. However, it can be good to try to care for your pets for 5 days using only the items in the kit to see if you have enough of everything or if something needs to be added. Just be sure to replace the items you used. Putting a list of the contents and needed items on top of the kit can help you do a quick check to be sure you have all the items you need before leaving home.

For each human:

- _____ Money (Cash in small bills is recommended because ATM machines and most cash registers may not be working)
- _____ Important papers (Bank account info, passport, copy of your Driver's license, copy of the deed to your home, insurance papers, important phone numbers, computer passwords, most recent computer back-up disks (especially if you own a business), any other document that would make it easier for you to travel, show proof of residency/ID, access your bank accounts, show proof of insurance (even if your insurance agent's office no longer exists), or get government aid.
- _____ Full gas can (stored in a safe place like a garage or shed- Do not store inside your home)
- _____ Change of clothes (in Winter, add some warm clothes, hat, gloves, thermal underwear, and a thick blanket. It is a good idea to keep these in your car during cold weather)
- _____ Food that does not require refrigeration or cooking- Dry cereal, power bars, pop tarts, crackers, pre-cooked canned meat with pop top lid, etc. Enough to last 5 days
- _____ Bottled water – Enough to last 5 days. Drinking alcohol or soft drinks is not recommended because it can increase thirst and dehydration. Sports drinks (like Gatorade) are a good supplement to the water in a 5:1 ratio (5 water : 1 sports drink)
- _____ First Aid Kit – wound cleaner, Antiseptic ointment, Band-aids, Rolls of gauze, Sterile gauze pads, tweezers, ace bandage, paint stir sticks (for splints), analgesic (pain killer), benedryl & scissors
- _____ Flashlight – change the batteries each year
- _____ Wire, pliers, and duct tape
- _____ Clean up supplies- Paper towels, garbage bags, ziplocks
- _____ List of phone numbers:
 - Your veterinarian
 - List of secondary veterinarians
 - "Pet-friendly" motels
 - Boarding facilities (Red Cross shelters do not allow animals)
 - Emergency clinic(s)
 - Database centers if your dog is tattooed or has a microchip
 - Animal poison control center(s)
 - Animal shelters in your area (in case you get separated from your pet)
- _____ A reminder note on top of the kit to grab your medications (if applicable) Be sure to have chemical ice packs and a small cooler if meds need refrigeration

For each dog:

- _____ Spare collar* and leash (never know when one might break or get lost and you don't want to spend too much time looking for the regular leash and collar)
- _____ *Collar should have your cell phone number and the number of an out of state friend or relative or the number of a national registry that has your contact info

- _____ Proper sized crate (the kind the folds up is most easily transported and can come in handy in many situations during an emergency) stored with your evac. kit. with the following information indelibly printed: your name; phone number; address; a description of your dog (distinguishing marks, age, breed, sex, spayed, neutered, etc.); the name of your dog; microchip ID or tattoo ID, if any; pet insurance policy number; and the address and phone number where you or a contact person can be reached if you are not at home
- _____ Recent photographs with the same information that is on the pet carrier printed on the back (keep in a waterproof container, e.g., inside several ziplock bags). Include yourself in some of the photos to help you reclaim your pet, should he become lost.
- _____ Dog's proof of vaccination and any on-going medical treatments or needed medication
- _____ Food – Changing your dog's diet in a stressful situation is not recommended. Each time you buy dog food, replace the food in the kit with a new waterproof 5 day supply.
- _____ Spoons and can opener, if necessary
- _____ Water – enough for 5 days in bottles. Replace with fresh bottles every 6 months when time change occurs.
- _____ Food and water bowls
- _____ A chew toy that won't upset the dogs stomach. Evacuation can be very stressful and giving the dog an outlet for that stress like chewing can really help
- _____ A shirt you have worn and sweated in that has your scent on it (store shirt in a plastic bag after it's completely dry) – replace every 6 months. If your dog gets loose, placing this in an open crate can encourage them to stay in the crate until you or a rescue worker can return
- _____ First aid kit – Same as human's except aspirin instead of analgesics, emergency muzzle, be sure benedryl has no additives
- _____ Clean up supplies- Paper towels, garbage bags, ziplocks
- _____ A reminder note on top of the kit to grab the dog's medications (if applicable)

For cats:

- _____ Spare collar with your cell phone number and the number of an out of state friend or relative or the number of a national registry that has your contact info
- _____ Proper sized crate (the kind the folds up is most easily transported and can come in handy in many situations during an emergency) stored with your evac kit. with the following information indelibly printed: your name; phone number; address; a description of your cat (distinguishing marks, age, breed, sex, spayed, neutered, etc.); the name of your cat; microchip ID or tattoo ID, if any; pet insurance policy number; and the address and phone number where you or a contact person can be reached if you are not at home. A fluffy towel or two for inside the crate can give the cat a place to hide and keep warm.
- _____ Recent photographs with the same information that is on the pet carrier printed on the back (keep in a waterproof container, e.g., inside several ziplock bags). Include yourself in some of the photos to help you reclaim your pet, should he become lost.
- _____ Cat's proof of vaccination and any on-going medical treatments or needed medication
- _____ Food – Changing your cat's diet in a stressful situation is not recommended. Each time you buy cat food, replace the food in the kit with a new waterproof 5 day supply.
- _____ Spoons and can opener, if necessary
- _____ Water – enough for 5 days in bottles. Replace with fresh bottles every 6 months when time change occurs.
- _____ Food and water bowls
- _____ A shirt you have worn and sweated in that has your scent on it (store shirt in a plastic bag

after it's completely dry) – replace every 6 months. If your cat gets loose, placing this in an open crate can encourage them to stay in the crate until you or a rescue worker can return

- ___ First aid kit – Same as human's except no analgesics, a cat muzzle, and be sure benedryl has no additives
- ___ Clean up supplies- Paper towels, garbage bags, ziplocks, dry litter
- ___ Temporary litter box & scoop
- ___ A reminder note on top of the kit to grab the cat's medications (if applicable)

For horses:

- ___ Spare halter and lead rope with ID tag. A leather or rope halter is recommended because nylon can melt in a fire and cause nasty head burns.
- ___ Horse's proof of vaccination and any on-going medical treatments or needed medication
- ___ Food - Changing your horse's diet in a stressful situation is not recommended. Each time you buy food, replace the food in the kit with a new waterproof 5 day supply. Include note on the feed bucket to grab a bale or two of hay.
- ___ Water – enough for 5 days in large jugs. Replace with fresh bottles every 6 months when time change occurs. It may also help to include packs of kool-aid to flavor water from other areas that the horse may refuse to drink.
- ___ Food and water buckets
- ___ First Aid kit – Same as human's in larger quantities plus leg wraps, hoof pick and clippers.
- ___ Blanket and hood if weather is cold- Fly sheet and fly spray if weather is warm
- ___ Reminder on the kit to grab the horse's medications (if applicable)

For Birds:

- ___ Prior to emergency, bird should have some form of permanent ID like a microchip or leg band.
- ___ Carry cage that is as small as possible while still being comfortable with the following information indelibly printed: your name; phone number; address; a description of your bird (distinguishing marks, age, breed, sex, wing clipped, etc.); the name of your bird; microchip ID or leg band ID, if any; pet insurance policy number; and the address and phone number where you or a contact person can be reached if you are not at home
- ___ Recent photographs with the same information that is on the pet carrier printed on the back (keep in a waterproof container, e.g., inside several ziplock bags). Include yourself in some of the photos to help you reclaim your pet, should he become lost.
- ___ Cover for the cage
- ___ Bird's proof of vaccination and any on-going medical treatments or needed medication
- ___ Food – Changing your bird's diet in a stressful situation is not recommended. Each time you buy bird food, replace the food in the kit with a new waterproof 5 day supply.
- ___ Water – enough for 5 days in bottles. Replace with fresh bottles every 6 months when time change occurs. Estimate 1-2 quarts per day for drinking, bathing, and cleaning.
- ___ Food and water bowls
- ___ Clean up supplies- Paper towels, garbage bags, ziplocks, newspaper or other cage Bedding
- ___ Spray bottle for misting
- ___ A reminder note on top of the kit to grab the bird's medications (if applicable)

For Exotics:

Use the lists above to develop a list of supplies that are suitable for your exotic pet.