

Caregiver Guidelines & Resources for PEOPLE with PETS (And Large Animals, too!)



This Tip Sheet is for caregivers of people with pets and large animals. More detailed information and checklists are in the HALTER Project Disaster Preparedness Workbook for Pets and the Animal Disaster Action Plan Workbook.

When pet owners are unable to care for their pets due to illness or other life changes, it's important to have plans in place to ease stress.

Plan Ahead

The best plan is for someone who knows the pet to provide care, such as a friend, relative, or neighbor. Discuss emergency plans for pets with family and client. Put them in writing. Update info as needed.

Recommended actions for Owners, if possible:

- Reserve funds for pet care
- Get Pet Health Insurance
- Include a plan end of life care.

Use the forms in this Packet for:

- Animal Emergency Plan
- Pet Description Info Form
- Advance Veterinary Care Directive

Plans should also be made for longterm care, or permanent adoption, in case the owner is no longer able to have pets or passes away.

Plan for personal emergencies that can impact a pet owner's ability to care for animals.

- Work with your client or family members to make an emergency plan for their animals before it's needed.
- Keep a list of reliable people who can care for the pet.
- Keep all Pet Emergency information ready in case a disaster, sudden illness, or other life change.
- Find out what local agencies and organizations provide resources or help for pet owners who are seniors or have special needs. Keep a list of resources, such as:
 - Pet's veterinarian
 - Local SPCA or Humane Society
 - Local Animal Care & Control
 - Local Pet Rescue groups
 - Organizations with a Pet Safety Network

Pet Supplies Checklist for Disaster and Personal Emergency

In case the owner and pet are evacuated, or the owner is unable to care for the pet.

(See the detailed list in this packet.)

Important items:

- Go-Bag with pet care needs and toys.
- Extra collar with an ID tag, a leash or harness.
- If possible, a minimum of 1-2 weeks of pet food and water in rodent-proof container.
- Favorite kitty litter for cats.
- Secure carrier for cats & small dogs with ID info attached.
- 2-5 Contacts for people who can care for pets for several weeks or months.
- Names and contacts of people who will adopt pets.

What To Do

In a Personal Emergency

1. Call pet care contacts.
2. If you have to leave animals at home put the animal in a secure place, and leave water, a small amount of food, a litter box, and pee pads, if needed.
3. Call local Animal Services or 911 if nobody is able to care for the pet within 12 hours.

In a Disaster

Plan for natural disasters that require evacuation or sheltering in place. Leave ASAP if you receive a SEVERE WEATHER ALERT or EVACUATION WARNING.

If you receive a GO NOW Evacuation Order and client cannot take the animals, do these things, if possible:

1. Call pet helpers who live in the same evacuation zone to see if they can take the pet.
2. If no helpers are available, call Animal Services / Animal Control to request care for animals inside the Evacuated Zone.

You can also call 2-1-1 to request information about animal assistance.

3. Call Animal Services every day until the Evacuation Order is lifted to continue animal care to request continued animal care.

When the Evac Order is lifted the pet owner or caregiver will be responsible for animal care.

Where Can I Take Pets If I Have to Evacuate?

You should try to have several options for places where Owner and pets can go and stay together.

1. Pet-friendly motels & vacation rentals. Make sure they accept your type of pet. Try websites specializing in pet-friendly accommodations.
2. Emergency Shelters identified in Emergency Alerts and Information. Call 2-1-1 may have information.

Veterinary & End-of-Life Care Directive

Make a written plan for pet End-of-Life care and instructions for cremation and disposition of pet remains.

Pet owners should include their instructions for their pet's veterinary and End-of-Life care in an Advance Animal Care Directive and in their own legal document. If no prior arrangements have been made, local Animal Welfare agencies and organizations may be able to help.

Some communities have organizations that can help foster or re-home a pet when the owner is unable to care for it. To get help, contact your local Pet Rescue organizations, local Humane Society, or Animal Services.

Some veterinarians offer compassionate fee structures for End-of-Life pet care.

If an animal has special needs, is elderly, or in poor health, euthanization may be more humane and less stressful for the owner, family, and caregivers to arrange for the pet, rather than re-homing or foster care.



Ready-Kit Checklists for Cats, Dogs, & Other Pets



For a checklist for **YOUR** pet species, go to HALTERproject.org/checklists

Documents

- ✓ Copy of your Emergency Plan, vet records, Advance Directive, Animal ID info, photos.
- ✓ Pet insurance.



Meds & First Aid

- ✓ Current prescription & dosage information.
- ✓ First Aid kit with tick remover, Bleed-Stop or styptic pencil.
- ✓ Packets of Manucca Honey or antibiotic silver-honey dressing.
- ✓ Bandages
- ✓ Paw ointment, Vaseline, Aquaphor.

Comfort & Calm

- ✓ Fun stuff, toys, treats
- ✓ Bedding, blanket, sheet or towel for privacy.
- ✓ Cooling pads, ice packs
- ✓ Calming aids
- ✓ Thunder Shirt
- ✓ Large pillow case: good way to transfer cats, birds, reptiles, pocket pets into carriers.



Basics

Refresh supplies twice a year.

- ✓ Water, food, meds, enough for:
 - * GO: 7-14 Days
 - * STAY: Min. of 1 month
 - * Parasite Control - plus one extra dose per animal.
- ✓ Use zip-lock bags for dry food.
- ✓ Pack small cans of wet food.
- ✓ Emergency water packets.
- ✓ Travel bowls, spoon, can opener, lid.
- ✓ Extra reflective collar, harness, leash and ID tags.
- ✓ Headlamp or flashlight with red mode.

Grooming & Hygiene

- ✓ Brushes and combs
- ✓ Saline solution or wipes for eyes, noses, ears.
- ✓ Pee pads, Poop bags.
- ✓ Disposable litter pan & litter.
- ✓ Pet-safe disinfectant.
- ✓ Unscented baby wipes.
- ✓ Sanitizer
- ✓ Disposable gloves
- ✓ Trash bags
- ✓ Anti-Bacterial soap



A note about MUZZLES:

You may need to use one if your dog is not in a carrier and you are riding on public transportation or inside a human evac shelter.



Animal ID & Reunification

If you and your animals are separated, current ID, photos and videos will help you reconnect faster and more safely.

Microchipping is the BEST way to help you and your animals reconnect. Report your missing animal ASAP to local Animal Services. Post your info on local "Missing Animal" social media sites.

- ✓ Have multiple forms of ID: microchip plus visible ID on all animals.
- ✓ Keep all forms of ID updated!
- ✓ Add extra collar, harness and leash with pet name and your contact info to emergency supplies.

Pet-Safe Sanitation, & Other Essentials

Ready-Kits should be easy to grab & go. Keep them where they are safe and accessible.

Long stay-at-home supplies should be stored in weather tight, insect and rodent-proof containers. Make sure you can get to them easily and safely. Flashlight, charger, radio, batteries.

PET-SAFE CLEANING PRODUCTS

- * Use unscented pet or baby-safe cleaning products.
- * Many essential oils are toxic to pets.
- * When using alcohol, bleach or hydrogen peroxide products, MUST allow to air-dry COMPLETELY before pet use.
- * Put newspapers under pee pads for extra cushion and easier cleanup.

Pet Carrier, Crate, and Car Safety

- ✓ Cats, small dogs, birds, reptiles and pocket pets should be secured in appropriate carriers or cages.
- ✓ Make sure carriers are secure. Check clips and bolts and add zipties where possible.
- ✓ Make sure pets cannot jump out of car windows or doors.
- ✓ Crates should be large enough for animals to stand up, lay down, and turn around.
- ✓ Covering pet carrier or crate will help them feel calmer and safer.
- ✓ Keep pets cool: ice packs, cooling pad, water spritz.
- ✓ Put your name, number, and address or your facility's name on the carrier.



ANIMAL EMERGENCY PLAN

For Owners, Caregivers,
and Animal Sitters

Attach current
vaccination & vet
records to this plan.

- * Keep a copy with your important records.
- * Put a copy where helpers and responders can see it.
- * Give copies to animal caregivers.
- * Keep a copy electronically.

Pet's Name: _____

Pet's Description: _____

Medical Information

Veterinarian's Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Pet Allergies: _____

Special Diet Needs: _____

Medication: _____ Dose: _____

Medication: _____ Dose: _____

Attach copies of pet's vaccination records and a photo of your pet to this plan

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

EMERGENCY SHELTERING INFORMATION

For public health reasons, many emergency shelters cannot accept pets. Identify 2 hotels/motels that accept pets in your area for short-term emergencies and 2 long-term pet boarding options. Long-term options could include boarding kennels, veterinarians, and animal shelters.

Hotels/Motels:

Name: _____ Rate: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Rate: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Boarding Options:

Name: _____ Rate: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Rate: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Update your Animal Disaster Plan, Ready Kit, and emergency supplies twice a year.



Advance Health and Final Care for Pets

In the event of my death, or incapacity to act, I want the following plan for the care and safety of my pet(s) to be implemented.

HALTER
Project
HALTERproject.org

Pet's Name	Species	Age	Gender

I would like my pet(s) to be:

- Placed in an appropriate home by this rescue organization:
 - _____
 - A copy of this document is on file with this organization.
- Surrendered to the SPCA, local humane society, or pet rescue organization
 - A copy of this document is on file with this organization.
- Euthanized, cremated, buried/remains disposed of with me, as mine.
- Placed with family or friends, as listed below.
 - Each person named has a copy of this document.

Name	Address	Phone	Relationship

Veterinarian Information

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

- A copy of this document, and my pet(s) records are on file with my veterinarian.

Pet Owner Signature _____ Date _____

Witness _____ Date _____

Pet Description & Care Information For Boarding, Shelters & Caregivers



PET INFORMATION

Pet name _____

Breed _____ Color _____

Gender _____ Weight _____ Microchip # _____

OWNER INFORMATION

Your name _____

Your address _____

Your phone # _____ Email address _____

Alternate phone # 1 _____ Alternate phone # 2 _____

FOOD AND MEDICATIONS

Type of food _____ Wet Dry Amount _____ Frequency _____

Name of medication _____ Instructions _____

Name of medication _____ Instructions _____

MEDICAL INFORMATION

Veterinarian name _____ Veterinarian phone # _____

Date of last rabies vaccine _____ Rabies certificate # _____

Date of last bordetella vaccine _____ Date of last distemper/parvo vaccine _____

Date of last Heartworm test and result (dogs) _____

Date of last FeLV/FIV test and result (cats) _____

Current medical conditions _____

Behavior concerns _____

