



Alachua County Animal Services

The mission of Alachua County Animal Services is to promote public safety for the welfare of citizens and animals. We accomplish this through education, adoption, sheltering, enforcement, and the rescue of animals that may be stray, injured, unwanted, neglected, or abused.

Background

Alachua County Animal Services (ACAS) is Alachua County's municipal animal shelter operating out of a facility built in the mid-1980's. When it was originally built, the shelter served primarily as a collection site for unwanted animals and headquarters for our enforcement, or field operations, division. Unfortunately the vast majority of animals brought here at that time were euthanized after only a few days. Fortunately, however, times and the animal welfare profession have changed!

In the year 2000, for example, 11,109 animals were brought to our facility, and 8,040 were ultimately euthanized. That means that positive outcomes (e.g. adoptions, transfers, and reclaims) were found for only 27% of our intake that year, which the profession defines as our Live-Release-Rate (LRR). The very next year ACAS, local rescue groups, and UF's College of Veterinary Medicine came together to end the euthanasia of healthy and treatable animals. An aggressive modernization of the pet adoption process, increased collaboration with local rescue groups, and financial support from Maddie's Fund helped us raise that LRR to just over 93% last year – meaning that positive outcomes were found for at least 9 out of every 10 animals!

Our department now consists of 4 units: administration, sheltering, medical, and field operations all working together to affect positive change for the animals in our care and protect the public safety for the citizens of Alachua County. In 2017 the animals brought to our facility numbered 4,647. Out of those we were able to find new homes for (adopt) 1,902; transfer 1,210 to our local rescue partners where they worked to re-home them; transfer another 491 to rescue partners in other communities; and return 724 to their rightful owners. That's 4,327 lives saved!

Administration

Responsible for management/oversight of the department. Provides guidance and direction. Meets fiscal responsibilities. Administers state rabies requirements and local animal licensing provisions. Provides front-line customer service, processes owner reclaims, and performs some adoptions. (7.5 FTEs)

Sheltering

Responsible for management/oversight of sheltering operations for approximately 5,000 cats and dogs annually. Provides humane care and treatment of stray, surrendered, abandoned, and abused animals in our custody 365 days/year. Administers reunification, transfer, adoption, volunteer, and foster programs. Coordinates events that promote adoption and animal welfare. (11 FTEs)

Medical

Responsible for management/oversight of medical services for the animals in our care. Performs forensic exams for potential cruelty cases. Administers vaccination, anti-parasitic, and biosecurity protocols to ensure the health of sheltered animals. Also administers sterilization program including post-operative care and pain management. (4 FTEs)

Field Operations

Responsible for management/oversight of field operations for approximately 10,000 calls annually. Investigates and prosecutes alleged animal cruelty cases. Responds to citizen complaints regarding cats and dogs. Enforces state and local animal welfare ordinances. Apprehends strays animals, returns to owner, or transports to shelter. And provides 24/7 support for first responders with calls involving cats and dogs. (14 FTEs)

Public Education

Satisfies local mandate to educate the public about animal safety, care, and welfare. Charged with raising awareness through community outreach, media appearances, interaction with students (elementary through college level). Administers Paws on Parole program. (1 FTE)

We hope you enjoy the Citizens Academy and will come back and visit our shelter often. We would love for you to adopt one of our animals, volunteer your time to help at our facility, foster an animal in need, or help by simply spreading the good news about our successes.

It's also important to note that our website, **www.myacas.org**, contains a lot of really good additional information – everything from adoption requirements and recommendations to tips for finding your lost pet to frequently asked questions about animal licensing.

Maddie's Pet Rescue Project in Alachua County
ANNUAL REPORTING FORM
Alachua County Animal Services
Baseline Year: January - December 2000



	NAME OF ORGANIZATION:	2017			Annual Baseline		
		Dog	Cat	Total	Dog	Cat	Total
A	BEGINNING SHELTER COUNT	106	76	182	133	149	282
	INTAKE (Live Dogs & Cats Only)						
	From the Public						
	Healthy	1578	984	2562			
	Treatable – Rehabilitatable	626	567	1193			
	Treatable – Manageable	339	330	669			
	Unhealthy & Untreatable	97	60	157			
B	Subtotal Intake from the Public	2640	1941	4581	6139	4660	10799
	From Incoming Transfers from Maddie Partner Organizations						
	Healthy	0	0	0			
	Treatable – Rehabilitatable	0	0	0			
	Treatable – Manageable	0	0	0			
	Unhealthy & Untreatable	0	0	0			
C	Subtotal From Incoming Transfers from Maddie Partner Organizations	0	0	0	55	42	97
	From Incoming Transfers from Non-Maddie Partners						
	Healthy	2	7	9			
	Treatable – Rehabilitatable	1	22	23			
	Treatable – Manageable	1	1	2			
	Unhealthy & Untreatable	0	0	0			
D	From Incoming Transfers from Non-Maddie Partners	4	30	34	8	5	13
	From Owners/Guardians Requesting Euthanasia						
	Healthy	11	0	11			
	Treatable – Rehabilitatable	21	0	21			
	Treatable – Manageable	0	0	0			
	Unhealthy & Untreatable	29	13	42			
E	From Owners/Guardians Requesting Euthanasia	61	13	74	126	96	222
F	Total Intake [B + C + D + E]	2705	1984	4689	6328	4803	11131
G	Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia (Unhealthy & Untreatable Only)	29	13	42	11	11	22
H	ADJUSTED TOTAL INTAKE [F minus G]	2676	1971	4647	6317	4792	11109
	ADOPTIONS (Only dogs and cats adopted by the public)						
	Healthy	783	810	1593	957	902	1859
	Treatable – Rehabilitatable	204	78	282	0	0	0
	Treatable – Manageable	20	7	27	0	0	0
	Unhealthy & Untreatable	0	0	0	0	0	0
I	TOTAL ADOPTIONS	1007	895	1902	957	902	1859
	OUTGOING TRANSFERS to Maddie Partners (list each separately)						
	Alachua County Humane Society						
	Healthy	108	85	193	4	8	12
	Treatable – Rehabilitatable	135	162	297	5	12	17
	Treatable – Manageable	28	20	48	0	1	1
	Unhealthy & Untreatable	4	1	5	0	0	0
	Subtotal	275	268	543	9	21	30
	Gainesville Pet Rescue						
	Healthy	51	34	85	59	53	112
	Treatable – Rehabilitatable	88	79	167	77	107	184
	Treatable – Manageable	36	8	44	9	3	12
	Unhealthy & Untreatable	2	2	4	0	0	0
	Subtotal	177	123	300	145	163	308
	Puppy Hill Farm						
	Healthy	28	2	30	0	0	0
	Treatable – Rehabilitatable	13	7	20	0	0	0
	Treatable – Manageable	5	0	5	0	0	0
	Unhealthy & Untreatable	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Subtotal	46	9	55	0	0	0
	Haile's Angels Pet Rescue						
	Healthy	31	39	70	0	0	0
	Treatable – Rehabilitatable	48	2	50	0	0	0
	Treatable – Manageable	28	1	29	0	0	0
	Unhealthy & Untreatable	3	0	3	0	0	0
	Subtotal	110	42	152	0	0	0
	Helping Hands Pet Rescue						
	Healthy	35	3	38	0	0	0
	Treatable – Rehabilitatable	86	16	102	0	0	0
	Treatable – Manageable	14	5	19	0	0	0
	Unhealthy & Untreatable	1	0	1	0	0	0
	Subtotal	136	24	160	0	0	0
J	TOTAL OUTGOING TRANSFERS to Maddie Partners	744	466	1210	154	184	338
	OUTGOING TRANSFERS to Non-Maddie Partners						
	Healthy	26	54	80	0	0	0
	Treatable – Rehabilitatable	37	73	110	0	0	0
	Treatable – Manageable	14	282	296	0	0	0
	Unhealthy & Untreatable	2	3	5	0	0	0
K	TOTAL OUTGOING TRANSFERS to Non-Maddie Partners	79	412	491	0	0	0
L	RETURN TO OWNER/GUARDIAN	630	94	724	702	78	780
	DOGS & CATS EUTHANIZED						
M	Healthy (Includes Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia)	0	0	0	1258	961	2219
N	Treatable – Rehabilitatable (Includes Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia)	36	2	38	2313	1930	4243
O	Treatable – Manageable (Includes Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia)	40	6	46	243	228	471
P	Unhealthy & Untreatable (Includes Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia)	136	90	226	617	512	1129
Q	Total Euthanasia [M + N + O + P]	212	98	310	4431	3631	8062
R	Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia (Unhealthy & Untreatable Only)	29	13	42	11	11	22
S	ADJUSTED TOTAL EUTHANASIA [Q minus R]	183	85	268	4420	3620	8040
	SUBTOTAL OUTCOMES [I + J + K + L + S] Excludes Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia (Unhealthy & Untreatable Only)	2643	1952	4595	6233	4784	11017
U	DIED OR LOST IN SHELTER/CARE	9	31	40	25	30	55
V	TOTAL OUTCOMES [T + U] Excludes Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia (Unhealthy & Untreatable Only)	2652	1983	4635	6258	4814	11072
W	ENDING SHELTER COUNT	131	64	195	133	149	282

In a perfect world, the Ending Count is equal to the Beginning Count (A) plus Total Intake (F) minus all Outcomes (R+V). -----> 130 64 194

If your reported Ending Count does not match these numbers, please go back through your data and be sure you didn't miss something (i.e., animals in foster, adoptions, transfers, etc.). If all animals have been accounted for and the reported Ending Count is different, please indicate in the comment section.

Comments:

I agree that in completing this form, we have used the Maddie's Fund definitions of “Healthy,” “Treatable - Manageable,” “Treatable - Rehabilitatable,” and “Unhealthy & Untreatable” as set forth in the attached document titled, “Maddie’s Fund® Categorizations/Definitions of Shelter Animals.”

Signature: _____ Date: _____



What is a Community Cat?

- Any unowned free-roaming cat living in an outdoor environment
- Usually not well socialized to people
- Typically live in groups called colonies



What is Trap-Neuter-Return?

- TNR is the only effective and humane way to stabilize and decline community cat populations.
- Cats are humanely trapped and taken to a spay-neuter clinic or veterinarian, where they are spay-neutered, vaccinated, and eartipped.
- Cats are then returned to their outdoor home, where they are often provided continuing care by a caregiver.



Why not trap and remove?

- If cats are just removed, other cats will move into the territory and will fill the space left behind. The new cats integrate into the area and produce more kittens
- There are very few locations that will accept relocation of community cats.
- Trapping and removing cats without a caregiver is inhumane.



This is an eartip

It is the universally accepted way to identify a spay-neutered and vaccinated cat. If you see an eartipped cat outdoors, it means the cat has been through a TNR program.

Source: Alley Cat Allies



What to do if you find a free-roaming cat?

Check to see if the cat is eartipped.

- Eartipped and healthy: leave the cat alone. This cat is already in its outdoor home.
- Not eartipped and not social: contact Operation Catnip to set up a reservation for free spay-neuter.
- Friendly and appears lost: report a found cat to Alachua County Animal Services (ACAS), bring the cat to a vet or ACAS to scan for a microchip, post found cat fliers in the neighborhood, and post a found cat or sighting report to Gainesville Pet Finder on Facebook.



What to do if you found kittens?

Kittens cannot be adopted or rehomed until they are 2 months old and 2 pounds.

- Under 2 months and 2 pounds: leave them with their mother.
- Under 2 months and no mother: consider fostering them until they are the appropriate age and weight for adoption.
- Over 3 months and unsocial: contact Operation Catnip to set up a reservation for free spay-neuter.
- Don't forget about mom! You may not always see her, but where there are kittens there is a mom. Contact Operation Catnip for help locating her.



4 WEEKS OLD 6-8 WEEKS OLD 12 WEEKS OLD



Easy Ways YOU can Help Community Cats

- **Spay-neuter and vaccinate** community cats for free at a Catnip Sunday clinic. Contact Operation Catnip for more information.
- **Adopt a working cat** in need of a new outdoor home. Operation Catnip and Alachua County Animal Services often have working cats available for adoption.
- **Foster underage kittens**, particularly during the summer kitten season. Contact Alachua County Animal Services or other local rescue groups about foster opportunities.
- **Volunteer** with Operation Catnip and Alachua County Animal Services.
- **Donate** to Operation Catnip to ensure that Catnip Sunday spay-neuter clinics remain free for all Alachua County community cats!

Questions about community cats, trapping, spay-neuter, or other cat related issues?

Contact Operation Catnip at (352) 380-0940 or info@ocgainesville.org
4205 NW 6th St, Gainesville FL 32609
www.operationcatnip.org

Questions about low-cost spay-neuter and veterinary care for pet cats and dogs?

Contact the Alachua County Humane Society at (352) 376-6647 or go to www.alachuahumane.org/services



Alachua County Community Cat Guide



Alachua County Animal Services
3400 NE 53rd Ave., Gainesville, FL 32609
(352) 264-6870

Operation Catnip of Gainesville
4205 NW 6th St, Gainesville, FL 32609
(352) 380-0940



Operation Catnip is a local non-profit organization that conducts high-quality, high-volume spay-neuter clinics (typically held once a month) called Catnip Sundays. At each Catnip Sunday, community cats are humanely trapped, spayed-neutered, vaccinated for rabies and other feline viruses, and returned to their colonies. Catnip Sundays are run by a team of 100 volunteers (veterinarians, veterinary students, veterinary technicians, and other community members), and are capable of sterilizing 200+ cats in a matter of hours.

Services offered by Operation Catnip:

- Spay-neuter unowned, free-roaming cats from Alachua County
- Provide routine vaccinations at the time of surgery and booster vaccinations as needed
- Lend out humane traps free of charge for safe capture and transportation of cats to the clinic

Services NOT offered by Operation Catnip:

- Spay-neuter owned pets or adoptable strays
- Spay-neuter cats that will be placed in sanctuaries or shelters
- Accept cats for adoption
- Relocate cats
- Participate in cat trapping for release to animal shelters or euthanasia



Simple Steps for Deterring Unwanted Cat Behaviors

Cats are digging in my garden

- Spread deterrents in your yard. Scatter fresh orange and lemon peels or spray citrus scented fragrances. Sprinkle coffee grounds, vinegar, pipe tobacco, dried rue, or oil of lavender, lemongrass, citronella, or eucalyptus.
- Plant rue, lavender, or rosemary to deter cats from the garden.

Feeding the cats attracts insects and wildlife

- Feed all pets in an indoor or enclosed area to not attract community cats and other wildlife.
- Keep trash cans tightly sealed to avoid attracting wildlife.
- If your neighbors are feeding community cats, educate them on proper feeding guidelines.

Cats are lounging in my yard or sleeping under my porch or in my shed

- Apply cat deterrents liberally around the edges of the yard, the tops of the fences, and on any favorite spots.
- Physically block or seal the location the cats are entering with chicken wire or lattice.

Cats are yowling, fighting, spraying, roaming, and having kittens

- These are all mating behaviors displayed by cats who have not been spayed or neutered, and they will continue to breed. Spaying or neutering the cats will stop these behaviors.
- After neutering, male cats will no longer compete, fight, spray, or roam.
- After spaying, females will stop yowling and producing kittens.



How to Care for Community Cats While Being Respectful of Your Neighbors



- Feed cats at the same designated time each day, during daylight hours. They should be given only enough food for them to finish in one sitting, and all remaining food should be removed after 30 minutes. Visit www.alleycat.org/ColonyCare for a thorough list of colony management guidelines.
- Keep the feeding area neat and free of leftover food and trash.
- To help deter the cats from relieving themselves using your neighbors' flower beds, establish a litterbox by placing sand or loose soil in an out-of-the-way, sunny spot in your yard. Keep it clean and free of deposits.
- If you feed, don't let them breed! Contact Operation Catnip to make a reservation for free spay-neuter services for community cats.



Alachua County Animal Services

Alachua County Animal Services handles community cats through the Return-to-Field program. Any healthy, non-adoptable community cats brought to ACAS, are spayed-neutered, vaccinated, and returned to the location where they were found. The Return-to-Field program is a partnership with ACAS and Operation Catnip designed to end the needless euthanasia of community cats and provide support to their caregivers.



Services offered by Alachua County Animal Services

- Return healthy, unsocialized or semi-socialized community cats to their outdoor homes through the Return-to-Field program
- Adoption of socialized pet cats

Services NOT offered by Alachua County Animal Services

- Trap community cats
- Relocate cats from their outdoor homes
- Pick up healthy, eartipped cats

Originating Department	Description of Service to be Furnished	Fee
ANIMAL SERVICES (325) 264-6870	ADOPTION FEES:	
	Bird (large - Cockatiel, Parrot, etc)	\$10.00
	Bird (small - Parakeet, Finch, etc)	\$5.00
	Cat (includes intake vaccinations, parasite treatment, FeLV/FIV testing, veterinary exam, sterilization, rabies vaccination (> 4 mos), microchip, and county license/tag)	\$20.00
	Dog (includes intake vaccinations, parasite treatment, heartworm testing, veterinary exam, sterilization, rabies vaccination (> 4 mos), microchip, and county license/tag)	\$40.00
	Ferret (includes parasite treatment, veterinary exam, sterilization, rabies vaccination (> 4 mos), microchip, and county license/tag)	\$10.00
	Livestock (small - Goat, Pig, etc)	\$10.00
	Pocket Pets (Rabbit, Guinea Pig, Hamster, etc)	\$5.00
	Reptiles (Snake, Iguana, etc)	\$10.00
	NOTE: Adoption fees may be decreased or waived by the Animal Services Director during special promotions, to promote efficient shelter operations, and/or to optimize animal life-saving.	
	RECLAIM FEES: <i>(Total of all applicable fees listed below)</i>	
	Intake vaccinations (mandatory)	\$10.00
	Parasite treatment (mandatory)	\$10.00
	Microchip (mandatory if deficient)	\$10.00
	Rabies vaccination & county license/tag:	
	Sterilized (mandatory if deficient)	\$20.00
	Unsterilized (mandatory if deficient)	\$50.00
	Boarding (mandatory for each day after initial day of impoundment)	\$10.00 / day
	Bite Quarantine (mandatory for each day of impoundment)	\$15.00 / day
	Emergency medical/veterinary expenses	Cost Incurred
	LICENSE FEES:	
	Sterilized & microchipped cat, dog, or ferret	\$10.00 / year
	Unsterilized and/or un-microchipped cat, dog, or ferret	\$40.00 / year
	Microchip	\$10.00
	Rabies Vaccination (Tuesday-Friday 2-5pm)	\$10.00
	Replacement tag	\$5.00
	Discount for licenses/tags sold to veterinarians	(\$2.00) each

Originating Department	Description of Service to be Furnished	Fee
ANIMAL SERVICES (325) 264-6870	MISCELLANEOUS FEES:	
	Euthanasia (owner requested)	\$30.00
	Disposal	\$10.00
	Aggressive Dog:	
	Initial Registration	\$400.00
	Annual Registration	\$50.00
	Dangerous Dog:	
	Initial Registration	\$400.00
	Annual Registration	\$50.00
	Transportation (pick up and/or delivery)	\$40.00
	Trap Rental (live animal):	
	First Week	\$20.00
	Additional Weeks	\$10.00 / week
	SURRENDER FEES:	
	Alachua County resident (or animal found in Alachua County)	No Charge
	Out of County Resident - Stray	Not Accepted
	Out of County Resident - Owned Cat or Dog	\$50.00 / animal or litter
	TRANSFER FEES:	
	Pre-sterilized (includes intake vaccinations, parasite treatment, testing (to the extent possible), rabies vaccination (> 4 mos), and microchip)	No Charge
	Sterilized (includes intake vaccinations, parasite treatment, testing, veterinary exam, sterilization, rabies vaccination (> 4 mos), microchip, and county license/tag)	Applicable adoption fee for species
	Any animal on the euthanasia list	No Charge
	NOTE: Transfers only available to nonprofit Animal Welfare Organizations (AWOs). Pre-sterilized transfers only available to a pre-approved list of AWOs who have agreed in writing that each animal will be sterilized (and microchipped, if applicable) prior to adoption.	
	DIAGNOSTIC TEST and/or PROCEDURES:	
	Physical Exam (veterinary)	\$20.00
	Fecal Flotation	\$10.00
	FeLV/FIV testing	\$10.00
	Heartworm testing	\$10.00
	Canine Parvovirus testing	\$10.00
	Sutures	\$10.00
	Cat Sterilization	\$75.00
	Dog Sterilization	\$95.00
	Antibiotic and/or pain medications	\$10.00 / each
	Diagnostic Imaging	Cost Incurred
	Emergency medical/veterinary expenses	Cost Incurred
	Necropsy (forensic)	Cost Incurred

Preparing for Your Pets Makes Sense. Get Ready Now.

If you are like millions of animal owners nationwide, your pet is an important member of your household. The likelihood that you and your animals will survive an emergency such as a fire or flood, tornado or terrorist attack depends largely on emergency planning done today. Some of the things you can do to prepare for the unexpected, such as assembling an animal emergency supply kit and developing a pet care buddy system, are the same for any emergency. Whether you decide to stay put in an emergency or evacuate to a safer location, you will need to make plans in advance for your pets. Keep in mind that what's best for you is typically what's best for your animals.

If you must evacuate, take your pets with you if possible. However, if you are going to a public shelter, it is important to understand that animals may not be allowed inside. Plan in advance for shelter alternatives that will work for both you and your pets.

Make a back-up emergency plan in case you can't care for your animals yourself. Develop a buddy system with neighbors, friends and relatives to make sure that someone is available to care for or evacuate your pets if you are unable to do so. Be prepared to improvise and use what you have on hand to make it on your own for at least three days, maybe longer.

Preparing for the
unexpected makes sense.
Get Ready Now.



This information was developed by the
Federal Emergency Management Agency
in consultation with:
American Kennel Club, The American Society
for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals,
American Veterinary Medical Association,
and The Humane Society of the U.S.



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUBSM



THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

Ready

Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed.®



FEMA

Ready

Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed.®



**Preparing
Your Pets for
Emergencies
Makes Sense.
Get Ready
Now.**



FEMA

www.ready.gov

1 Prepare

Get a Pet Emergency Supply Kit.

Just as you do with your family's emergency supply kit, think first about the basics for survival, particularly food and water. Consider two kits. In one, put everything you and your pets will need to stay where you are. The other should be a lightweight, smaller version you can take with you if you and your pets have to get away. Plus, be sure to review your kits regularly to ensure that their contents, especially foods and medicines, are fresh.

Food. Keep at least three days of food in an airtight, waterproof container.

Water. Store at least three days of water specifically for your pets in addition to water you need for yourself and your family.

Medicines and medical records. Keep an extra supply of medicines your pet takes on a regular basis in a waterproof container.

First aid kit. Talk to your veterinarian about what is most appropriate for your pet's emergency medical needs. Most kits should include cotton bandage rolls, bandage tape and scissors; antibiotic ointment; flea and tick prevention; latex gloves, isopropyl alcohol and saline solution. Include a pet first aid reference book.

Collar with ID tag, harness or leash. Your pet should wear a collar with its rabies tag and identification at all times. Include a backup leash, collar and ID tag in your pet's emergency supply kit. In addition, place copies of your pet's registration information, adoption papers, vaccination documents and medical records in a clean plastic bag or waterproof container and also add them to your kit. You should also consider talking with your veterinarian about permanent identification such as microchipping, and enrolling your pet in a recovery database.

Crate or other pet carrier. If you need to evacuate in an emergency situation take your pets and animals with you provided that it is practical to do so. In many cases, your ability to do so will be aided by having a sturdy, safe, comfortable crate or carrier ready for transporting your pet. The carrier should be large enough for your pet to stand, turn around and lie down.

Sanitation. Include pet litter and litter box if appropriate, newspapers, paper towels, plastic trash bags and household chlorine bleach to provide for your pet's sanitation needs. You can use bleach as a disinfectant (dilute nine parts water to one part bleach), or in an emergency you can also use it to purify water. Use 16 drops of regular household liquid bleach per gallon of water. Do not use scented or color safe bleaches, or those with added cleaners.



A picture of you and your pet together. If you become separated from your pet during an emergency, a picture of you and your pet together will help you document ownership and allow others to assist you in identifying your pet. Include detailed information about species, breed, age, sex, color and distinguishing characteristics.

Familiar items. Put favorite toys, treats or bedding in your kit. Familiar items can help reduce stress for your pet.

2 Plan

What You Will Do in an Emergency.

Be prepared to assess the situation. Use whatever you have on hand to take care of yourself and ensure your pet's safety during an emergency. Depending on your circumstances and the nature of the emergency the first important decision is whether you stay put or get away. You should understand and plan for both possibilities. Use common sense and the information you are learning here to determine if there is immediate danger. In any emergency, local authorities may or may not immediately be able to provide information on what is happening and what you should do. However, watch TV, listen to the radio or check the Internet for instructions. If you're specifically told to evacuate, shelter-in-place or seek medical treatment, do so immediately.

Create a plan to get away. Plan how you will assemble your pets and anticipate where you will go. If you must evacuate, take your pets with you if practical. If you go to a public shelter, keep in mind your animals may not be allowed inside. Secure appropriate lodging in advance depending on the number and type of animals in your care. Consider family or friends willing to take in you and your pets in an emergency. Other options may include: a hotel or motel that takes pets or a boarding facility, such as a kennel or veterinary hospital that is near an evacuation facility or your family's meeting place. Find out before an emergency happens if any of these facilities in your area might be viable options for you and your pets.

Develop a buddy system. Plan with neighbors, friends or relatives to make sure that someone is available to care for or evacuate your pets if you are unable to do so. Talk with your pet care buddy about your evacuation plans and show them where you keep your pet's emergency supply kit. Also designate specific locations, one in your immediate neighborhood and another farther away, where you will meet in an emergency.

Talk to your pet's veterinarian about emergency planning.

Discuss the types of things that you should include in your pet's emergency first aid kit. Get the names of vets or veterinary hospitals in other cities where you might need to seek temporary shelter. You should also consider talking with your veterinarian about permanent identification such as microchipping, and enrolling your pet in a recovery database. If your pet is microchipped, keeping your emergency contact information up to date and listed with a reliable recovery database is essential to your being reunited with your pet.



Gather contact information for emergency animal treatment. Make a list of contact information and addresses of area animal control agencies including the Humane Society or SPCA, and emergency veterinary hospitals. Keep one copy of these phone numbers with you and one in your pet's emergency supply kit. Obtain "Pets Inside" stickers and place them on your doors or windows, including information on the number and types of pets in your home to alert firefighters and rescue workers. Consider putting a phone number on the sticker where you could be reached in an emergency. And, if time permits, remember to write the words "Evacuated with Pets" across the stickers, should you flee with your pets.

3 Stay Informed

Know About Types of Emergencies.

Some of the things you can do to prepare for the unexpected, such as assembling an emergency supply kit for yourself, your family and your pets, is the same regardless of the type of emergency. However, it's important to stay informed about what might happen and know what types of emergencies are likely to affect your region as well as emergency plans that have been established by your state and local government. For more information about how to prepare, visit www.ready.gov or call 1-800-BE-READY.

Be prepared to adapt this information to your personal circumstances and make every effort to follow instructions received from authorities on the scene. With these simple preparations, you can be ready for the unexpected. Those who take the time to prepare themselves and their pets will likely encounter less difficulty, stress and worry. Take the time now to get yourself and your pet ready.

Preparing for Your Pets Makes Sense. Get Ready Now.