

## CHAPTER 13: PET DISASTER PLAN

*While fulfilling your duties as a NERT member, be aware that pet owner/guardians may put themselves in danger when faced with an emergency that could affect their animals. These pet owner/guardians may not be willing to comply with orders or requests until they know that their pet issues can be resolved. Our experience has shown that many people treat their pets as members of their family, and they will not evacuate their homes without them.*

Do you have a plan for your pets in case of an earthquake, flood or fire? In the event of an emergency, a well-practiced disaster program will not only reduce stress, but will also save precious time -- and possibly lives. These are Animal Care and Control's recommendations to help keep you and your pet/s safe during a disaster.

### 1. BEFORE DISASTER STRIKES

#### ➤ IDENTIFY YOUR PET

Keep your pet's license current.

Make sure that collar and identification tags are worn at all times.

Consider having a safe, permanent microchip implanted in your pet. This type of ID cannot fall off or be removed. Most veterinarians offer micro chipping services to their customers.

Keep a photo of your pet in your personal go-kit.

#### ➤ CRATE TRAIN YOUR PET

Train your pet to enter his/her carrier or crate at your command. Try putting your pet's favorite treat in his/her carrier and sounding a bell at the same time. Repeat this process every day, until your pet comes running at the sound of the bell. Continue this routine often enough to keep it fresh in your pet's mind. This training will be extremely helpful when locating a frightened animal. Also important -- make sure your pet is comfortable being handled.

#### ➤ PREPARE A FIRST AID KIT

**Include:**

- ◆ large and small bandages
- ◆ scissors

- ◆ tweezers
- ◆ cotton swabs
- ◆ antibiotic ointment
- ◆ hydrogen peroxide (to induce vomiting or clean deep wounds)
- ◆ elastic tape
- ◆ eye wash (saline)
- ◆ ear-cleaning solutions
- ◆ K-Y Jelly (water soluble)
- ◆ any special medications prescribed by your veterinarian

➤ **SECURE BIRD CAGES AND AQUARIUMS**

Because these items may move and/or break during a disaster; securing them on low stands or tables is advisable. Tighten the latch on your birdcage so that the door cannot be shaken open easily.

➤ **CREATE A PET DISASTER KIT**

A prepared disaster kit, kept in a safe and easily accessible place, will enable you to provide immediate care to your pet in an emergency. A calm, well-trained pet, which is either on leash, or in a carrier, will be more welcome wherever you go.

***Items to Include:***

- Sturdy crate and/or pet carrier;
- Identification tags and collars;
- Leashes;
- Food and water (a 7-day supply for each pet);
- Non-spill bowls;
- Litter box and litter;
- Any special medications;
- Manual can opener and plastic lid;
- Copy of your pet's vaccination history;
- Recent photos of each pet;

- Pet First-Aid book; Pet First-Aid kit;
- Phone number of a local emergency veterinary hospital;
- Phone number of your local animal shelter (**Animal Care and Control (415) 554-6364** for emergency services 24 hours a day, seven days a week);
- Long-term confinement equipment: chains, cable-runs, tie out stakes, portable caging
- Large plastic bags for pet cleanup

## **2. IN CASE OF DISASTER**

### ➤ **EVACUATION**

Red Cross shelters do not accept pets. Prepare a list of back up arrangements, such as homes of friends and family, hotels that allow pets, boarding facilities, veterinarians and/or shelters.

*It is generally not recommended that you leave your pet behind during an evacuation. If you must, follow these guidelines to help ensure your pet's safety.*

- Post a highly visible sign in a window to let rescue workers know how many pets were left behind.
- Leave plenty of water in a large, open container that cannot be tipped over.
- Leave plenty of food in timed feeders (check local pet supply stores). These will prevent your pet from overeating.
- Do not tie or cage your pet! The chances for survival are greater if he/she can escape easily.

### ➤ **IF YOUR PET IS LOST**

- Immediately call or visit the nearest animal shelter to report your missing pet.
- When it is safe, return to your neighborhood to post or distribute “Lost Pet” posters. Be sure to include your name, home address and home and work phone numbers. It’s always helpful to include a current photograph of your pet.
- Continue to search the area for your missing pet. A frightened animal can stay hidden for days.
- Call neighbors and service workers, such as mail carriers, police, firefighters and PG&E workers for leads.

### ➤ **IF YOU FIND A LOST PET**

Notify your local animal shelter as soon as possible. Be prepared to give a full description of the animal. Include breed, color, and sex and the location where the animal was found. Remember

that sick and/or injured animals can become unpredictable from fear and pain, and should be handled only by professionals with proper equipment.