

Emergency Pet Pack Checklist

- Crate, kennel or carrier to safely transport and confine each pet
- Photocopies of veterinary records and a waterproof container with a weeks supply of any medicine your pet requires (Remember to check food and medications for expiration dates)
- Pet license and microchip information
- Clear, recent photos of each pet (if possible, a photo with the pet and owner together)
- Harness (preferred) or collar and leash. If your dog is not socialized with other animals or people, you may want to consider a muzzle for safety reasons.
- Five days worth of canned or dry pet food
- Food bowls or disposable containers for feeding and water
- Scoopable litter and disposable litter trays
- Bottled water—at least five day supply for each person and each pet
- Liquid soap and disinfectant
- Disposable trash bags and paper towels wipes for clean-up
- Blankets or towels for bedding
- Especially for dogs: Long leash and yard stake



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*Our Vision: Citizens and pet animals
living together harmoniously.
Every pet owner is a responsible owner
and every pet has a humane home.*

Pet Emergency Preparedness



**Mesa County
Animal Services**



Emergencies often happen with little or no warning and may require anything from a brief absence from your home to a lengthier evacuation. As a pet owner, you can use this brochure and the checklist on the back to help you be better prepared to handle most emergency situations.

In Case An Emergency Occurs and You Cannot Get to Your Home and Pets

Pet rescue alert stickers are available through Mesa County Animal Services, the Red Cross, numerous national animal welfare agencies (on-line), and various pet stores. These easy-to-use stickers ensure that emergency responders are aware that there are pets inside your home. Place it on a door or window so that it is visible to rescue workers. It is important that the information on any sticker you use include: 1) the types and number of pets in your household; 2) the name of your veterinarian; and 3) your veterinarian's phone number.

In Case An Emergency Occurs and You Are Able to Evacuate With Your Pets

NEVER LEAVE YOUR PETS BEHIND. If it isn't safe for you, it isn't safe for your pets. They may become trapped or escape and be exposed to numerous life-threatening hazards. Not all Red Cross disaster shelters accept pets, so it is important that you determine where you might house your pets ahead of time:

- Check with local boarding kennels and facilities to see what their policies are in case of emergency situations.
- Identify hotels or motels outside of your immediate area that accept pets.
- Ask friends and relatives if they would be willing to temporarily house your pet in an emergency situation. If they have pets of their own, make

sure your pets interact safely or that there is a means to safely isolate the pets.

Emergency Pet Pack Preparation

Prepare and keep an Emergency Pet Pack using the checklist on the back of this brochure. Make sure the Pet Pack is clearly labeled and is easily accessible in an emergency situation—load and go!

Evacuation Preparation

If you must evacuate your home in a crisis, plan for the worst-case scenario. You may be gone from home longer than originally anticipated. By following the advance preparation steps above, you will be prepared to minimize evacuation time. When recommendations for evacuation have been announced, follow the instructions of local and state officials. The following steps will make the evacuation process easier:

- Store your Emergency Pet Pack and leashes as close to an exit as possible.
- Make sure all pets wear collars and tags with up-to-date identification. Consider microchipping your pet as a more permanent form of identification.
- Be sure your pet's carrier is clearly marked with your pet's name, your name and contact information.
- Frightened pets can "hide" in places that might make them difficult to locate or can become disoriented and wander away from home when scared. Bring pets indoors at the first sign or warning of a possible evacuation situation or emergency. Confine them to an area from which they can be easily retrieved should an evacuation be necessary.
- Consider your evacuation route and call ahead to make arrangements for boarding your pet at the first sign of disaster.

Specific Emergency Situations

In Western Colorado, the type of natural emergencies we are most likely to encounter are floods and wildfires. Every citizen should include the geography of the area near their home when determining the type of emergency they are likely to experience. These considerations will help you develop an overall effective emergency plan that might have additional specific safety components to assist you during the most likely emergency event.

When You Do Not Evacuate

If emergency officials recommend that you stay in your home, it's crucial that you keep your pets with you. Keep your Emergency Pet Pack and supplies close at hand. Your pets may become stressed during the in-house confinement, so you may want to crate them for safety and comfort. Consider the type of emergency when determining where you and your pets are most safe in your home.

- Choose easy-to-clean areas such as utility rooms, bathrooms, and basements as safe zones.
- Access to a supply of fresh water is particularly important. Fill up bathtubs and sinks ahead of time to ensure that you have access to water during a power outage or water shortage.
- In the event of flooding, go to the highest location in your home. Find a room that has access to high shelves or counters where your pets can take shelter.