HOW DO I PREPARE MY PETS FOR AN EMERGENCY?

Ready.gov says that if officials ask you to evacuate, your pet should evacuate too. Plan a pet-friendly destination, since many shelters and hotels do not allow pets, and build two kits: a larger one for sheltering at home and a lightweight one for leaving.

THE STEPS

01 Plan to evacuate your pets with you.

02 Find a pet-friendly place in advance, because many public shelters and hotels do not allow pets.

03 Set up a buddy system with a neighbor, friend or relative.

04 Microchip your pet, and keep your address, phone number and an out-of-area contact current.

05 Build two kits, one for sheltering in place and a lightweight one for evacuating.

06 Pack several days of food, water and a bowl, medicine, ID tag, leash or harness, carrier, records and a photo of you with your pet.

THE CHECKLIST

- ☐ Food and water for several days
- ☐ Medicine
- ☐ Collar, tag, leash or harness
- ☐ Carrier
- ☐ Records in a waterproof container
- ☐ Photo of you with your pet

Sources: Ready.gov, Prepare Your Pets for Disasters; Ready.gov, Build a Kit. Last reviewed November 17, 2026. General planning information, not medical, legal or financial advice.