

Please don't forget about your pets when preparing your family for an emergency. If you leave your pets behind, they may be lost, injured – or worse. Never leave a pet chained outdoors. Ready Georgia offers the following tips to get your pets prepared before an emergency:

- Create a buddy system in case you're not home. Ask a trusted neighbor to check on your animals.
- Most public shelters can't accept pets due to health regulations, so plan accordingly.
- Find pet friendly hotels along your evacuation route and keep a list in your pet Ready kit.
- Locate boarding facilities or animal hospitals near your evacuation shelter.
- Consider an out-of-town friend or relative.
- Locate a veterinarian or animal hospital in the area where you may be seeking temporary shelter; in case your pet needs medical care. Add the contact information to your Ready kit.
- Have your pet is microchipped and make sure that you not only keep your address and phone number up-to-date, but that you also include contact info for an emergency contact outside of your immediate area.
- Remember, during a disaster what's good for you is good for your pet, so get them ready today.

Prepare with a pet ready kit

- Include basic survival items and items to keep your pet happy and comfortable. Below is a list of essential items to get you started:
- Food: At least a three day supply in an airtight, waterproof container.
- Water: At least three days of water specifically for your pets.
- Medicines and medical records
- Important documents: Registration information, adoption papers, and vaccination documents. Talk to your veterinarian about microchipping and enrolling your pet in a recovery database.
- First aid kit: Cotton bandage rolls, bandage tape, and scissors; antibiotic ointment; flea and tick prevention; latex gloves, isopropyl alcohol, and saline solution. Including a pet first aid reference book is a good idea, too.
- Collar or harness with ID tag, rabies tag, and a leash
- Crate or pet carrier. Have a sturdy, safe crate or carrier in case you need to evacuate. The carrier should be large enough for your pet to stand, turn around, and lie down.
- Sanitation: Pet litter and litter box if appropriate, newspapers, paper towels, plastic trash bags, and household chlorine bleach.
- A picture of you and your pet together: If you become separated, a picture of you and your pet together will help you document ownership and allow others to assist you. Add species, breed, age, sex, color, and distinguishing characteristics.
- Familiar items: Familiar items, such as treats, toys, and bedding can help reduce stress for your pet.