

A photograph of a brown and black dog swimming in blue water. The dog is looking towards the camera with a calm expression. The water is bright blue and has some ripples.The logo for World Animal Protection, featuring the text "WORLD ANIMAL PROTECTION" in a bold, sans-serif font inside a white circle with a black border. There is a small orange dot in the top right of the circle and a larger orange triangle pointing towards the bottom left of the circle.

WORLD  
**ANIMAL**  
PROTECTION

# Protect your pet in a disaster

## Downloadable Disaster Pack for Cats

Just as you do with your family's Disaster Survival Kit, think first about the basics, for your cat – **food, water and warmth.**

### Think about two Disaster Survival Kits –

1. One kit for if you need to stay at home for up to three days.
2. The other, a more portable lightweight version (Getaway Kit) for when you, your family and your cat need to leave quickly.

**Remember: If where you are is not safe for you, it is not safe for your animal.**

Place these kits somewhere easy to get to in a hurry. And make sure everyone in the house knows where they are kept, including a neighbour.

Always re-check these kits for expiry dates, to ensure supplies stay fresh – particularly the food, water and medicine items. Water should always be replaced every six months to ensure freshness.



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## Prepare for your Cat – Checklist

### Emergency Survival Items:

- **Food:** Store at least three days of non-perishable pet food (canned or dried) in an airtight, waterproof container (remember the can opener!). Ideally this should be the same food as your normally feed your cat so as to avoid stomach upsets.
- **Water:** Store at least three days of water for your cat, in addition to the water you need for your family (remember a cat can drink more water than usual when under stress). Plus you will need extra water to clean up after your cat.
- **Medicines:** Store any extra supply of medicines your cat needs in a waterproof container, as well as any special dietary needs or supplements.
- **Veterinary/Medical Records:** Store copies of any medical and vaccination records in a watertight container or ziplock bag including your vet's name and telephone number (in case you have to board your cat or place them in foster care).
- **First Aid Kit:** Store extra cotton bandage rolls, bandage tapes, scissors, tweezers and latex gloves in addition to those required for your family. Talk to your vet about any other requirements ie tick/flea prevention, antibiotic ointment and saline solution (ie eye wash solution separate from your family use).  
[▶ Click here for a full First Aid Kit for Pets](#)
- **Blanket/Bedding:** Familiar items, like a favourite blanket or toys, or even a pillowcase they can bury into, can help reduce stress for your cat.
- **Sanitation:** Include any cat litter and litter box device. Other useful items are newspapers, paper towels, plastic bags, gloves and household bleach (to dilute).

### Identification:

- **Collar with ID disc:** Add an ID disc to your cat's collar that clearly states their name, your name, phone number and if there is room your address. Include a back up collar and tag in your cat's Disaster Survival Kit.

- **Micro-chipped:** Make sure your cat is microchipped and a copy of the microchip registration form is in your Disaster Survival Kit. If your cat gets lost, this is their easiest ticket home! Ensure your microchip database records include the contact details of your 'next of kin' (ie. a close relative or friend outside of your household), in case you have to be evacuated and the mobile phone network is down. Remember to regularly check your details on the microchip databases to make sure they are all up to date.

**In the Canterbury Earthquake there was an 80% success rate of microchipped animals being reunited with their owners versus only 20% for non-chipped animals.**

- **Photograph:** Store a current photograph of your cat in a waterproof container, including notes on: distinguishing features, name, sex, age, colour and breed. Also include a photograph of you and your cat together as this helps prove ownership if you become separated.
- **Back up:** As a back up, please save microchip details, medical and veterinary details, key contact details and all photographs electronically - to places such as 'Dropbox', your mobile phone or save a folder in your Webmail (ie gmail). This means you can still access these vital details if you are cut off from returning to your cat.

### Equipment:

- **Cages or Carrier:** This is to transport your cat safely and ensure they cannot escape. Remember anything cardboard/paper based (ie pet carrier box) will disintegrate.

A cage/carrier should be large enough for your cat to stand comfortably, turn around, and lie down and have adequate ventilation. Your cat may have to stay in the cage/carrier for hours at a time, so include bedding, blankets and any favourite toy, to reduce stress levels.



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## Safe Shelter Places

If you need to evacuate, take your pet cat. Pets are part of the family and it is not okay to leave them behind. If it is not safe for you to stay, then it is not safe for them or those who may try and rescue them. Pets are usually not permitted in public shelters, so you need to plan and agree on a 'Safe House' or an animal shelter that you and your cat (or just your cat) can go to:

- **A Safe House:** Plan and agree with a family member or friend (who doesn't live with you and who has cared for your cat in the past) if they will care for your cat for any length of time, in case of a disaster.
- **Place their full name, address and telephone number in your Disaster Survival Kit in a waterproof container.** All adults and children in your household should know these primary and alternative contacts (names/addresses/contact numbers) or always carry this information with them.
- **Show them and a neighbour where your Disaster Survival Kits are** (the one kit for you and your cat staying put and the other kit for you and your cat's getaway) just in case you are not at home when disaster strikes and you are cut off from returning to your cat. This means your neighbour can at least feed and attend to your cat in the interim.
- **Also show them how to access a spare key to your house,** or even better provide them with a key (as your hiding place may be destroyed in a disaster).
- **Have a plan to communicate with your contact after the event.** You will want to arrange a meeting place in a safe area so you can be reunited with your cat.

○ **A Safe Shelter:** Make a list of contact information and addresses of potential 'pet friendly' shelters (cattery, motels that allow pets, local vet centres). Your local council may be able to assist you with this. Keep a list on you at all times and a copy in each of your Disaster Survival Kits.

At most locations you will need to provide veterinary records before boarding pets. Some shelters may even waive their 'no-pet' rule if your cat is housed in a cage/carrier (non-cardboard).

Always call ahead for a reservation as soon as you think you might have to evacuate from home.

## Give it a go

To ensure your family and cat can move fast and feel comfortable if you need to stay put in a disaster, you should practice getting your family into your safe place in the house (where your Disaster Survival Kits are kept). You can time yourselves and give it another go from time to time to see how fast (but not panicked) you can operate.

Then try again to your chosen 'Safe House/Shelter'. By practicing an evacuation your cat will get use to entering and travelling calmly in their cage/carrier.

Try doing both practice runs in the dark. This will ensure you can navigate quicker if a disaster strikes during the night or if there is a power cut.

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