

National Animal Disaster Preparedness Day is observed annually on May 8 to raise awareness about protecting pets during emergencies and natural disasters.

- Ensure your pet is incorporated in your **preparedness plans** - this includes your plans in case of a home disaster (house fires and floods) and natural disasters that may require evacuation (earthquakes and forest fires)
- Keep well stocked in your pet's regular **diet**, particularly if it is a prescription diet. Always make sure to order more food before your run out.
- Keep well stocked in your pet's **medications**, and think about a plan if you may need to refill medications away from home
- Have a copy of your pet's recent **medical records** and lab work easily accessible - be that an electronic version or a paper copy
- Keep your pet in mind when stocking your **first aid kit** - consider what your pet may need in an emergency, including items to keep yourself safe when handling a distressed animal (such as a muzzle, extra leash, cone)
- Ensure your pet has a **microchip** - in case of an emergency, this is the best way to ensure a wayward pet gets returned to you
- Ensure your pet has the appropriate **tags attached to their collar** - it is a good idea to have an up-to-date rabies tag on them as an additional form of identification and a signal that they are vaccinated
- Ensure your pet is up-to-date on **vaccines, exams, flea and tick prevention, and dewormer**
- Look up **pet first-aid and CPR**, or take a reputable class if possible

