

# **Emergency Preparedness for Pets: A Safety Guide for California Pet Owners**

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California is a beautiful place to live, but with the increased risks of wildfires, earthquakes, and power outages, we must be prepared to protect ourselves and our furry friends. Emergency planning is essential, and a plan can make all the difference during a crisis.

For this week's article, I will highlight what California pet owners need to build a safe and effective emergency kit and some tips for keeping pets calm and secure during an evacuation.

## **1. Pet Emergency Go-Bag**

A go-bag specifically for your pet is one of the most important things you can prepare. This should include:

- A 3–5 day supply of food and water
- Collapsible food and water bowls
- Extra leash, harness, and collar with ID tags
- A secure pet carrier or crate
- Waste bags/litter box + litter
- Favorite toy or blanket (for comfort)
- Medications with instructions and extra doses

Store everything in an easy-to-carry bag near your emergency kit so you can grab it and go.

## **2. Copies of Medical Records & ID**

In the event of separation or a trip to a temporary shelter, having important documents on hand is essential. Keep the following in a waterproof folder or digital copy on your phone:

- Recent photo of your pet (in case you're separated)
- Vaccination records and vet contact info
- Microchip number and registration
- List of medications and dosage instructions

These will help you reunite with your pet and ensure they receive proper care during emergencies.

### **3. Safe Shelter Plan**

Not all evacuation shelters allow pets, so plan:

- Identify pet-friendly hotels along possible evacuation routes
- Ask friends or family outside your area if they can offer temporary shelter
- Keep a list of local animal shelters that may provide emergency housing

Having options ready before you need them saves precious time and avoids last-minute stress.

### **4. Emergency Comfort & Anxiety Support**

Disasters are stressful for pets, too. Help them stay calm with the following:

- Familiar toys or a piece of your clothing
- Calming pheromone sprays or anxiety wraps
- CBD/ Calming aids

If your pet is prone to severe anxiety, talk to your vet ahead of time about emergency anti-anxiety medication options.

California's natural beauty comes with risks, but with some preparation, you can face any challenge confidently. Our pets rely on us, especially in times of emergency. Let's make sure we're ready for them.

This is awesome-much simpler breakdown than you get from the emrgency folks!!! 100/100