



# EMERGENCY



## PLANS FOR YOUR PETS



In the event of an emergency such as a fire, flood, tornado, or terrorist attack survival can depend largely on emergency planning done today. Some of the things you can do to prepare for the unexpected, such as assembling an animal emergency supply kit and developing a pet care buddy system, are the same for any emergency. Whether you decide to stay put in an emergency or evacuate to a safer location, you will need to make plans in advance for your pets.

If you must evacuate, take your pets with you if possible. However, if you are going to a public shelter, it is important to understand that animals may not be allowed inside. Plan in advance for shelter alternatives that will work for both you and your pets. Make a back-up emergency plan in case you cannot care for your animals yourself. Develop a buddy system with neighbors, friends, and relatives to make sure that someone is available to care for or evacuate your pets if you are unable to do so. Be prepared to improvise and use what you have on hand to make it on your own for at least three days, maybe longer.

Alpine Animal Services has put together an Animal Emergency Preparedness Plan for the City of Alpine. The purpose of the plan is to protect people, animals, and property during an emergency situation by ensuring the effective evacuation and care of pets residing in the City of Alpine/Brewster County area. It describes policies and procedures for evacuation, care, and control of animals during a disaster as well as the related roles and responsibilities of participating City of Alpine/Brewster County agencies and external partners. In order to better help The City of Alpine and Animal Services help you we recommend that the following steps are taken to prepare you in the event of a disaster.

### EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT

Just as you do with your family's emergency supply kit, think first about the basics for survival, particularly food and water. Consider two kits. In one, put everything you and your pets will need to stay where you are. The other should be a lightweight, smaller version you can take with you if you and your pets have to get away quickly. Plus, be sure to review your kits regularly to ensure that their contents, especially foods and medicines, are fresh. The following is a link to a list provided on the ASPCA website:

[https://www.aspcapro.org/sites/default/files/aspc\\_a\\_travelingbag.pdf](https://www.aspcapro.org/sites/default/files/aspc_a_travelingbag.pdf)

## MAKE A PLAN

Depending on your circumstances and the nature of the emergency the first important decision is whether you stay put or get away. You should understand and plan for both possibilities. Use common sense, the information you are learning here and listen to your local authorities to determine if there is immediate danger. If you are specifically told to evacuate, shelter-in-place or seek medical treatment, do so immediately.

Plan how you will assemble your pets and anticipate where you will go. If you must evacuate, take your pets with you if practical. If you go to a public shelter, keep in mind your animals may not be allowed inside. Secure appropriate lodging in advance depending on the number and type of animals in your care. Consider family or friends willing to take in you and your pets in an emergency. Other options may include: a hotel or motel that takes pets or a boarding facility, such as a kennel or veterinary hospital that is near an evacuation facility or your family's meeting place. Find out before an emergency happens if any of these facilities in your area might be viable options for you and your pets.

Plan with neighbors, friends, or relatives to make sure that someone is available to care for or evacuate your pets if you are unable to do so. Talk with your pet care buddy about your evacuation plans and show them where you keep your pet's emergency supply kit. Also designate specific locations, one in your immediate neighborhood and another farther away, where you will meet in an emergency.

Get the names of vets or veterinary hospitals in other cities where you might need to seek temporary shelter. You should also consider talking with your veterinarian about permanent identification such as microchipping. If your pet is microchipped, keeping your emergency contact information up to date essential to your being reunited with your pet.

Make a list of contact information and addresses of area rescue agencies including Alpine Animal Services and emergency veterinary hospitals. Keep one copy of these phone numbers with you and one in your pet's emergency supply kit. Obtain "Pets Inside" stickers and place them on your doors or windows, including information on the number and types of pets in your home to alert firefighters and rescue workers. Consider putting a phone number on the sticker where you could be reached in an emergency. And, if time permits, remember to write the words "Evacuated with Pets" across the stickers, should you flee with your pets. If you have no choice but to leave your pets behind, make sure that they are not tied or locked up and can evacuate themselves to safety if need be. If a pet is left behind please notify Alpine Animal Services or rescue workers to let them know that your pet maybe missing or in need of rescue from your property.

## STAY INFORMED

Some of the things you can do to prepare for the unexpected, such as assembling an emergency supply kit for yourself, your family, and your pets, is the same regardless of the type of emergency. However, it is important to stay informed about what might happen and know what types of emergencies are likely to affect your region as well as emergency plans that have been established by your state and local government. For more information about how to prepare, visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) or call 1-800-BE-READY. Be prepared to adapt this information to your personal circumstances and make every effort to follow instructions received from authorities on the scene. With these simple preparations, you can be ready for the unexpected. Those who take the time to prepare themselves and

their pets will likely encounter less difficulty, stress, and worry. Take the time now to get yourself and your pet ready.

## **INFORMATION PROVIDED BY**

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security in consultation with: American Kennel Club, The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, American Veterinary Medical Association, and The Humane Society of the U.S.

Alpine Animal Services

## **HELPFUL LINKS:**

*[Disaster Preparedness | ASPCA](https://www.aspca.org/pet-care/general-pet-care/disaster-preparedness)*

<https://www.aspca.org/pet-care/general-pet-care/disaster-preparedness>

*[Pet Disaster Preparedness | The Humane Society of the United States](https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/pet-disaster-preparedness)*

<https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/pet-disaster-preparedness>

*[Create an Emergency Evacuation Plan for You and Your Dog | American Kennel Club](https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/home-living/create-emergency-evacuation-plan-dog)*

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