Pet disaster preparedness kit checklist

We all hear reminders to stock up on batteries, canned food and bottled water for you and your family. But make sure to include your pets when calculating how much water and food to keep on hand for emergencies. Keep the following items in an easy-to-carry container such as a duffel bag or covered storage bin.

- Pet carrier.
- Three-day supply of water.
- Three-day supply of food.
- Pet first-aid kit.
- Medications your pet needs regularly.
- Veterinarian records.
- Proof of rabies vaccine.
- Spare leash and collar.
- Familiar toys and/or a blanket to reduce stress.
- Pet sanitary items (litter box, extra bag of litter, paper towels and trash bags to collect pet waste).
- Description and current photo of your pet to help others identify it if lost.
Prepare your pet!

License and vaccinate

Think your indoor cat that never ventures outside is fine without a county license? Considering skipping the upcoming round of vaccinations for your dog that never goes outside the fence? Think again! Natural disasters can leave cats and dogs lost and homeless. Protect Fluffy and Fido before emergencies happen by keeping their rabies vaccines and licenses up to date with the Animal Center or any veterinarian’s office.

Microchip

Get one for your pet. It’s a permanent form of identification that enables your lost or stolen pet to be traced back to you from anywhere in the country. Microchips are available at the Animal Center and many veterinarians’ offices. Don’t forget to keep your contact information up to date with the center by calling 352-671-8700.

Plan ahead

Determine where you will go should you need to evacuate, and include your pets in your evacuation plan. Be sure you’re equipped to safely transport your pet and that your destination accepts animals. If your home is unsafe and you have nowhere else to go, Animal Services hosts pet-friendly shelters at Lake Weir and Vanguard high schools. Be sure you can comply with the shelter parameters:
- Place your pet’s collar, licenses and tags on your pet if possible.
- Birds must remain in secure cages.
- Owners must stay at Vanguard but will not be housed in the same building as their pets.
- Wildlife, aggressive dogs, and dogs too large to fit into standard crates may not be accommodated. Make alternative plans in advance.

For more information, contact Marion County Animal Services at 352-671-8700 or visit marioncountyfl.org/animal.

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