

Are you prepared to take care of your cat when a disaster strikes? If not, NOW is the time to stock up on the items that you will need so you will not get caught unprepared. Listed below is a handy shopping list for you to use. The next time you buy food or supplies for your cat, take this list with you. Don't put off doing what you should do now – it may just make the difference between being able to keep your cat alive when a disaster strikes.

SHOPPING FOR YOUR CAT

Here are the supplies that you should have in a Disaster Kit for cats. Adjust the amounts, depending on the number of cats that you have.

1. FOOD:

- Always have a reserve supply of the type of food your cat is used to eating that would last two weeks.
- If your cat eats canned food, buy cans small enough to be used at one feeding since you may not have a way to properly refrigerate any leftover food. Buy pop top cans if you can since you may not have access to a can opener (you should include a can opener in your kit, just in case).
- Store food in an airtight, waterproof container and clearly mark all your containers with your personal info.
- Rotate food at least once every three (3) months.
- Include with your disaster supplies an extra feeding dish, just in case the one normally used is lost.
- Include with your disaster supplies a spoon to scoop and/or mix food.

2. WATER:

- Have enough drinking water to last at least two weeks for each cat in your household.
- Store water in a cool, dark location, and be sure to rotate it so it remains fresh.
- Remember that if the tap water is not suitable for humans to drink, it is also not suitable for animals to drink.
- Include with your disaster supplies, an extra water dish, just in case the one normally used is lost.

3. SANITATION:

- Have a small litter box and scoop in your disaster kit.
- Have enough cat litter to last at least two weeks. We recommend clumping litter during disasters only.
- Have some plastic bags in your kit for disposing of your cat's dirty kitty litter.

4. CLEANING SUPPLIES:

- Include in your kit, a small container of soap for washing out your cat's food/water dishes.
- Include in your kit, paper towels for drying dishes and other clean up.
- If you will be housing your cat in a crate/carrier, include in your kit a disinfectant that can be used to clean.

5. COLLAR AND TAG:

- A proper fitting breakaway collar and an identification tag should be kept on your cat at all times and an extra collar and id tag kept in your disaster kit in case the permanent ones get lost.
- On your spare id tag, write your temporary address/phone number and attach to collar during a disaster.
- We recommend microchipping and tattooing just in case your animals get lost during a disaster.
- Keep a proper fitting cat harness in your kit just in case you have to keep your cat confined for an extended period of time and you'll need a secure way to take your cat out on occasion.

6. CAT CONFINEMENT:

- You should have a wire collapsible cage to transport your cat should you have to evacuate and/or to keep the cat in following the disaster. Remember that exterior walls can fall down and windows may be broken so you need a secure way to keep your cat safely confined.
 - Be sure the cage is large enough to give your cat room to spread out and extra space for a litter box and food/water dishes.
 - If your cat plays with toys, include in your kit some toys to keep your cat entertained.
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7. PICTURES:

_____ You should have in your disaster kit, some current photos of your cat to use in case your cat gets lost during the disaster. Include yourself in some of the photos in case you have to prove ownership.

8. FIRST AID KIT:

_____ You should have in your disaster kit a basic First Aid Kit along with a First Aid Book For Cats. Some suggested items include:

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| a) Rescue Cream/Rescue Remedy | f) Antiseptic Wipes (1 package) |
| b) Conforming Bandage (3" x 5") | g) Tweezers and Scissors |
| c) Absorbent Gauze Pads (4" x 4") | h) Instant Cold Pack |
| d) Absorbent Gauze Roll (3" x 3') | i) Latex Disposable Gloves (several pair) |
| e) Cotton Tipped Applicators (1 small box/bag) | |

_____ Be sure to have a proper fitting muzzle in your First Aid Kit, as an injured animal, no matter how friendly they normally are, has a tendency to bite when they are in pain.

9. MEDICATIONS:

_____ If your cat is on long term medication, always have on hand at least a two week supply since your vet may not be available to open right away to refill a prescription.

_____ Check with your vet to see if your clinic has a Disaster Plan. If not, familiarize yourself with the Disaster Animal Response Team headquarters and procedures just in case your dog needs medical attention during a disaster.

_____ Keep copies of your cat's medical records, including records of vaccinations in your disaster kit.

IF YOU WERE UNABLE TO EVACUATE YOUR CAT(S), PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU REGISTER A RESPONSE REQUEST WITH THE CDART VOLUNTEERS TO GET YOUR CAT(S). IF YOU ARE ON EVACUATION ALERT, IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO RESTRAIN YOUR CATS WITHIN YOUR HOUSE SO THAT IF/WHEN AN ORDER COMES, YOU CAN GET THEM EASILY.

If you would like more information about being prepared during a disaster, or becoming a trained disaster volunteer for animals or if you want someone to speak to a group regarding the Disaster Animal Response Team during a disaster, please contact:

Canadian Disaster Animal Response Team
Box 235 . 113 – 437 Martin Street
Penticton, BC V2A 5L1
Phone: 250.494.5057 . Email: inquiries@cdart.org

We are grateful to United Animal Nations and their Emergency Animal Rescue Service division for providing us with most of the material in this information flyer. If you have any questions or comments, please contact CDART at the address and phone number as noted above.
