

# Practical advice for assembling an emergency kit for your animal

## 1. Identification

Make sure your animal can be identified quickly if they get lost. A tag worn at all times and a microchip with up-to-date contact information are essential.

Also keep a laminated photo of your animal, a copy of their medical records, and, if possible, a sheet with important information within easy reach (view the information sheet by clicking [here](#)).

## 2. Food and water

Plan for enough food and drinking water for 7 to 21 days. Use practical containers and pack foods your animal is used to eating to avoid digestive problems. Collapsible bowls are useful if you need to travel, but stainless steel dishes are easier to wash; choose the accessories that work best for you and add, as needed, a can opener, utensils, and a bowl lid.

## 3. Vaccination and medical records

Make sure you have a copy of your animal's medical records, which may include proof of spaying or neutering, vaccinations, microchipping, a list of prescribed medications, test results and follow-up information (if your animal has a specific health condition), etc.

Make a list of emergency veterinary clinics in your area.

## 4. Medications

Have your animal's medications on hand, with the dosage clearly written and in quantities sufficient for 7 to 21 days.

Also include a copy of the prescriptions or instructions issued by your veterinarian. These items are essential if your animal needs medical care during the evacuation period.

## 5. Transportation and comfort

Each animal must have their own travel crate or carrier, of suitable size and secure. Add a blanket, towel, or familiar cushion for basic comfort. In a large, practical and sturdy bag, gather all essential items for your animal's care for a period of at least 7 days and up to 21 days.

## 6. Hygiene

Prepare everything you need to allow your animal to relieve themselves and enable you to clean up after them: poop bags, litter tray, spare litter, training pads ("pee pads"), small scoop, etc.

## 7. Comfort and wellbeing

Consider bringing familiar items, such as a blanket or favourite toy, to comfort your animal. Treats or chew toys can also help keep the animal occupied and calm during periods of stress or long waits.

## 8. Practical accessories

Add a harness, leashes (short and long; even for cats), a muzzle (if required for veterinary examinations or handling by strangers), disposable gloves, and cleaning products. Extra towels may also be useful in case of messes or to facilitate handling.

## 9. First-aid kit

You can purchase a pre-assembled first-aid kit for animals.

If you would rather put one together yourself, here are some useful items to include:



- Disposable gloves, sterile gauze pads and other bandages, medical tape, round-tipped medical scissors
- Sterile cleansing solution, chlorhexidine (antiseptic)
- Styptic powder (to stop minor bleeding, such as when a claw is cut too short)
- Thermometer and lubricant, emergency thermal blanket
- Tweezers (to remove splinters or ticks)

If possible, add a small first-aid guide for animals. (E.g., [First Aid Tips for Dogs and Cats – Canadian Red Cross](#))

## 10. Information sheet

Complete one sheet per animal and keep it in an easily accessible place (e.g., in the kit or in a large plastic envelope taped to its crate or carrier). This will make it easier to care for your animal if you have to entrust them to a relative, a shelter or an emergency center.

You can include:

- Your contact information and your animal's microchip number.
- Any medical details (medication, special diet, allergies, etc.).
- The name and contact details of the animal's regular veterinary clinic.
- The animal's temperament (shy, reactive, likely to run away, sociable, etc.), preferences and fears.
- The contact details of someone who can temporarily take the animal in (emergency contact).
- Any information that may be useful for the animal's well-being in an emergency.

An information sheet you can complete is provided [here](#).

**For inclusion in the kit (print out the appendices you need)**

- 1 – Information sheet
- 2 – Checklist: single animal
- 3 – Checklist: multiple animals

## 11. What to do if you have to evacuate your home without your animal

As a last resort, if you absolutely must leave your home without your animal, leave them indoors and follow these tips:

- Leave them loose in a room that is easy to clean, well ventilated, and has no windows (e.g., large bathroom, garage).
- Give them enough food and water to last for 7 to 21 days.
- If you are evacuating due to a wildfire, partially fill the bathtub or a large container with water before leaving.
- Never leave your animal tied up or confined outside.
- Post a sign on the front door to inform first responders of the animal's presence inside.



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