Pet emergency kit checklist

Tick each box as the item goes into the kit. Keep the kit and leashes close to an exit, labeled and easy to carry. Swap out the food and water every two months.

Before: make the plan

- [ ] Know where each pet will stay: a pet-friendly hotel, a boarding kennel, an animal shelter, or friends and family outside your area.
- [ ] Call hotels along your route ahead of time. Ask if a no-pet rule can be waived in an emergency.
- [ ] Pick a buddy with a key who can care for or evacuate your pet if you cannot get home.
- [ ] Microchip every pet, register the chip, and keep your address and phone number current. Add an emergency contact outside your area.
- [ ] Collar and tag with current details on every dog and cat. Keep vaccinations current.
- [ ] Rescue alert sticker on or near your front door (see the wallet card at petsafecoalition.org/pet-emergency-wallet-card/).
- [ ] Practice with the carrier and the car ride.

Food and water

- [ ] Food in an airtight, waterproof container: 7 to 10 days (ASPCA) or 2 weeks (CDC).
- [ ] Water: at least 7 days for each person and pet (ASPCA); 2 weeks for each animal (CDC); at least 72 hours, about 1 liter a day for a cat and 4 liters for a dog (Government of Canada).
- [ ] Food and water bowls, and a manual can opener for canned food.
- [ ] Written feeding instructions for each pet.

Carry and comfort

- [ ] A sturdy carrier or crate for each pet, labeled with the pet's name, your name and your phone numbers.
- [ ] A collar with ID tag and a harness or leash, plus a spare of each.
- [ ] Bedding or a blanket, favorite toys and treats.

Medicine, first aid and papers

- [ ] A 2-week supply of any medicine, in a waterproof container, with the dose and your vet's contact details.
- [ ] A pet first aid kit and a pet first aid book. Ask your vet what belongs in them.
- [ ] Copies of vet records: rabies certificate, vaccinations, prescriptions and medical history.
- [ ] Registration or adoption papers and microchip details, in a waterproof container.
- [ ] Your vet's name and phone number.
- [ ] A recent photo of you with each pet, to help show the pet is yours.
- [ ] Notes on feeding times, medical conditions and behavior, for anyone who has to board your pet.

Clean-up

- [ ] Newspaper, paper towels, plastic trash bags and household chlorine bleach.
- [ ] Liquid dish soap and a disinfectant.
- [ ] Pet shampoo and grooming items.

Especially for cats

- [ ] Litter and a litter box. Disposable trays work.
- [ ] A carrier for each cat, left out and open, with treats and a familiar blanket inside.
- [ ] A pillowcase, and toys.
- [ ] FeLV and FIV test results with the vet records.
- [ ] Know where your cat hides, and practice getting it out.

If you have to leave: take your pets and the kit with you. If it is not safe for you, it is not safe for your pets. Keep each pet in its carrier or on a leash.

Built from Ready.gov (pets page, 20 March 2026), the ASPCA, the CDC, the Government of Canada (page of 16 February 2026), the American Red Cross and the AVMA. The source of each item is listed at petsafecoalition.org/disasterplanning/ and petsafecoalition.org/pet-emergency-kit/. Checked 17 October 2026. Your local emergency management office can tell you what applies where you live.

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