

PETS & EMERGENCY PLANNING

The effects of fires, floods, earthquakes, severe storms and cyclones on both people and pets can be terrifying and traumatic. Planning for your pet's requirements can assist you in the event of an emergency.

In the Top End of the Northern Territory there is a potential for cyclones during the monsoon season between November and April.

When looking after your family in any disaster, it is as equally important to look after the animals that are in your care.



Secure fences

All fences should be checked and repaired on a regular basis, even when no emergency is pending. Animals left at home, with or without their owners, can try to escape when frightened during an emergency. If kept outdoors, keep them in a location that is safe from falling debris.

Prepare emergency supplies Animal food, water and blankets should all be kept as part of your family emergency kit. If your animals require special medication, be sure to keep an extra up-to-date supply including regular medications such as heartworm tablets.

When stocking up on food for your pets, purchase a supply to last at least a week. If you use canned food, include a can opener in your emergency kit. Also include food and water bowls.

Cat owners should remember to store at least a week's supply of cat litter. If your pets have favourite treats (dog bones, dry food, etc), include those items in your kit also.

Evacuation

Sometimes it may be necessary to evacuate to the nearest shelter. Some shelters may accept caged or restrained pets at the owner's risk. It is important to find out as much information as possible regarding these shelters prior to evacuation.

Keep carriers and leads easily accessible to reduce evacuation time in an emergency.

Animals left at home

Owners who opt to leave their animals at home, particularly during a cyclone, must ensure that they are contained in a secure location. For most domestic pets, a good place may be the bathroom or laundry, with plenty of food and water available.

DO NOT LEAVE ANY ANIMAL TIED UP!

Pet identification

It is imperative that all dogs are wearing a fixed collar with an ID disc and Council tag attached. For cats this can include just an ID disc. The disc should be engraved with the animal's name, your surname and telephone number. If you have pet carriers, label them with your pets' names, description (colour, sex, etc) plus your name, address and telephone number.

Identify pet or animal organisations where people might return your lost animals. Keep those organisation addresses and phone numbers with your emergency kit so that you can get to them easily should you have to search for lost pets following an emergency.

For further information contact:

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