

**Clackamas County Dog Services  
2104 Kaen Rd.  
Oregon City, OR 97045**

**Animal Emergency Planning Checklist**

February 2007

**Before a disaster:**

- ✓ **Ensure each of your pets are wearing their identification and are microchipped.** The number one way animal agencies have of reuniting you and your pets is through identification and microchipping.
- ✓ **Have a crate suitable to contain each of your pets.** It is essential to be able to contain your pets whether you are sheltering in place, at home, going to motel/hotel or transporting them to a local area emergency shelter that accepts pets. On the side of each crate, tape a clear pocket with:
  - A current picture of your pet,
  - The pet's name, age, breed and any behavior issues;
  - Vaccination record
  - Any medication or special needs your pet may have.
  - Your name and contact telephone numbers,
  - Information about two or three alternate contact persons,
  - Contact information for the pet's veterinarian.
  - If your animal is licensed and/or microchipped, include the license and/or chip number.
- ✓ **Keep a picture** of your pet and you with you to identify your animal and prove ownership if you become separated.
- ✓ **Consider what may happen if you are unable to get home in the event of a disaster.** Do you know a neighbor's telephone number that is home during the day that could check on your pets? Are your pets safe for someone else to check on? Do your neighbors know where your animals' food is and are they willing to feed and care for them until you can get home?
- ✓ **Keep a 3-4-day supply** of food, potable water, cat litter, cat box and medications for each of your animals in your home, and include newspaper, paper towels, plastic bags, garbage bags, grooming tools and household bleach in your emergency stash. Have sturdy collars, harnesses and leashes for each of your animals - and for birds have sturdy traveling cages. Be sure each animal is wearing identification.

- ✓ **Plan where to go** if you cannot remain at your home in an emergency. Find out which area motels/hotels are pet-friendly or friends (in different geographical areas) that you could stay with. Most shelters do not accept pets (because of public health concerns), so you will need an alternate place for your pets.
  
- ✓ **If you have livestock that may need to be moved:**
  - Teach them to trailer easily
  - Identify where you are going in advance.
  - Make sure you have enough trailers, trucks and people to help you move them quickly and efficiently.
  - Be aware of several alternate road routes in case one is inaccessible.
  - Have the necessary vaccinations and paperwork to move all of your animals
  - Have the necessary supplies, feed, water, halters, bedding, lead ropes, portable pens, etc., to handle and control all of your animals for several days
  - Keep copies of pictures and identification paperwork so if you become separated from your animals, you can identify and claim them.
  - If you are going to relocate livestock on your property, be sure you have supplies needed to reinforce a barn or outbuilding, or repair fencing if necessary

### **As Disaster Nears:**

- ✓ **Confine your animals**, bring pets into the house for their own protection and so you can take them with you if you need to leave quickly. If you have livestock and are going to shelter them on your property, move them to the disaster shelter immediately and ensure they are confined.
  
- ✓ **If you must evacuate**, take your pets with you. Please remember -- people shelters do not permit pets other than service animals.
  
- ✓ **If you do not evacuate**, be sure you have identified a safe place for your family and your pets in your home where you can all stay together.

### **After a Disaster:**

- ✓ **Your pets may be disoriented and frightened**, so do not let them roam loose -- they may become lost.
  
- ✓ **If there is damage in your home**, keep your pets in their carriers or on leashes for a couple of days to protect them.

- ✓ **Be patient** with your pets as they recover from the stress. They do not understand what is happening - they only know that their world is topsy-turvy. They will get back to normal routines fairly quickly.

### **Reminders:**

**Birds** need to be kept warm but also not allowed to get too hot. In cold weather you can wrap their cage in a blanket; in hot weather, be sure to keep a misting bottle close by so you can help them stay cool. Do not place water in a cage during transport because it's likely to spill; instead give the bird a couple of slices of fresh fruit or vegetables with high water content. Keep birds in a quiet location and do not let them out of the cage until you have been able to return home and you have a secure room.

**Reptiles** can be transported in a pillowcase; however, they must be transferred to more secure housing as quickly as possible after reaching your evacuation location. If your reptile requires frequent feedings, carry food with you. Take a water bowl large enough for soaking and a heating pad.

**Small mammals** such as gerbils, hamsters, etc., should be transported and protected in a secure carrier. Be sure to remember all of their supplies, as outlined above. They will need fresh food, water, clean bedding materials, medications, etc.