

EM Online: Do you have a plan to protect your pet when disaster strikes?

protectyourpet.org.au – A new resource is encouraging the public to be prepared, act early and stay safe.

Australia is a nation of pet lovers: 63% of households have at least one pet. Pet owners consider their animals as part of the family.

But are people ready to protect their pets when disaster strikes?

We know that bushfires, storms, floods, tropical cyclones and hot weather are a reality of living in Australia. These disasters can occur at any time.

Without a disaster plan for their pets, people can make panicked decisions during disasters that threaten the safety of animals and humans alike.

The Protect your pet site allows the public to download Disaster Packs with important information to keep pets safe, including a checklist to prepare a disaster survival kit for pets.

WORLD ANIMAL PROTECTION

Protect your pet in a disaster

Do you have a plan to protect your pet when disaster strikes?

Bushfires, storms, floods, tropical cyclones and hot weather are a reality of living in Australia.

These disasters can occur at any time, and without a plan you could make panicked decisions that threaten the safety of your pet, yourself and your family.

It is vital to prepare a disaster plan for your pet – or be prepared potentially to lose each other forever.

Get Your Free Disaster Pack Now

Or select your pet from the images.

The Disaster Packs have important information to keep your pet safe, including a checklist to prepare your pet's disaster survival kit.

DOGS CATS HORSES

RABBITS BIRDS FISH SMALL PETS

WORLD ANIMAL PROTECTION

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Your responsibility

Across Australia, animal welfare laws require owners of animals, and those in charge of animals, to take all reasonable steps to ensure that the physical, health and behavioural needs of the animals are met.

Legislation generally bases these requirements on the Five Freedoms:

The Five Freedoms

- Freedom from hunger and thirst
- Freedom from pain, injury and disease
- Freedom from fear and distress
- Freedom to express normal behaviour
- Freedom from discomfort

In a disaster these Five Freedoms for animals must still be met. This means you are legally responsible for your pet in a disaster.

All of our association centres accept animals. It is vital to prepare a disaster plan for your pet so that you can act early and stay safe when a disaster strikes.

Together we can

End the needless suffering of animals. Influence decision makers to put animals at the global agenda. Help the world see how important animals are to all of us. Inspire people to change animals' lives for the better. Move the world to protect animals.

Protect your pet in a disaster

Disasters in Australia

Disasters can strike quickly and without warning. Having the right information is key to understanding and managing risks to your pet and yourself.

Different types of disasters bring with them specific considerations. Having the right information will help you take the right actions to ensure the safety of your pet.

If a disaster strikes:

Act early. Put your disaster plan in action early to protect your pet, yourself and your family. If your plan is to evacuate with your pet, do so early when it is safe.

Think about your pet. Look out for hazards of noise, power or food level. Debris, fallen electricity lines or branches and spilled chemicals or other substances could be dangerous for your pet.

The behaviour of your pet may change. If your pet senses danger it may feel fear or anxiety. It could try to escape your home, or become aggressive or defensive. Be aware of your pet's wellbeing and take precautions to keep it secure and calm.

Floods

High Temperatures

Thunderstorms

Tropical Cyclones

If you live in an area of risk from tropical cyclones, ask your local council where your closest evacuation centre is and whether it allows pets.

- Prepare a kit that includes provisions of food, water and medical supplies for your pet.
- If a cyclone warning is issued, move your pet inside or to a safe place.
- After a cyclone, keep your pet away from hazards such as fallen electricity lines, debris or polluted water.

GET YOUR PACK:

DOGS

CATS

RABBITS

BIRDS

FISH

HORSES

SMALL PETS