

Protect your pet in a disaster

Downloadable Disaster Pack for Assistance/Guide Dogs

Just as you do with your family's Disaster Survival Kit, think first about the basics, for your Assistance/Guide Dog – **food, water and warmth.**

Think about two Disaster Survival Kits –

1. One kit for if you need to stay at home for up to three days.
2. The other, a more portable lightweight version (Getaway Kit) for when you, your family and your Assistance/Guide Dog need to leave quickly.

Remember: If where you are is not safe for you, it is not safe for your animal.

Place these kits somewhere easy to get to in a hurry. And make sure everyone in the house knows where they are kept, including a neighbour.

Always re-check these kits for expiry dates, to ensure supplies stay fresh – particularly the food, water and medicine items. Water should always be replaced every six months to ensure freshness.



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Prepare for your Assistance/Guide dog – Checklist

Emergency Survival Items:

- **Food:** Store at least three days of non-perishable pet food (canned or dried) in an airtight, waterproof container (remember the can opener!) This ideally should be the same food you normally feed your Assistance/Guide Dog so as to avoid sudden changes in diet and possible stomach upsets.
- **Water:** Store at least three days of water for your Assistance/Guide Dog, in addition to the water you need for your family (remember dogs can drink more water than usual when under stress). Plus you will need extra water to clean up after your dog.
- **Medicines:** Store an extra supply of medicines your Assistance/Guide Dog may need in a water proof container as well as special dietary needs or supplements. Consider how your dog might behave if under extreme stress and discuss with your vet appropriate medications or herbal remedy alternatives that might be useful under these conditions.
- **Medical Records:** Store copies of any medical and vaccination records in a watertight container including your vet's name.
- **First Aid Kit:** Store extra cotton bandage rolls, bandage tapes, scissors, tweezers and latex gloves in addition to those required for your family. Talk to your vet about any other requirements ie tick/flea prevention, antibiotic ointment and saline solution (ie eye wash solution separate from your family use).
▶ [Click here for a full First Aid Kit for Pets](#)
- **Blanket/Bedding:** Familiar items, like favourite blanket or toys can help reduce stress for your Assistance/Guide Dog.
- **Sanitation:** Include any pet litter and litter box device. Other useful items are newspapers, paper towels, plastic bags, gloves and household bleach (to dilute).

Identification:

- **Registered & Micro-chipped:** Ensure your Assistance/Guide Dog is wearing at all times its licence tag and disc with its Disability Assist Number. Also make sure your personnel details are up to date on all relevant microchip databases, as well as your 'next of kin' (ie. a close relative or friend outside of your household).
- **Photograph:** Store a current photograph of your Assistance/Guide Dog in a waterproof container, including notes on: distinguishing features, name, sex, age, colour and breed. Also include a photograph of you and your Assistance/Guide Dog together as this helps prove they are yours if you become separated.
- **Official Vest/Harness:** Ensure your Assistance/Guide Dog is wearing its official vest and/or harness
- **Back up:** As a back up, please save microchip details, medical and veterinary details, key contact details and all photographs electronically - to places such as 'Dropbox', your mobile phone or save a folder in your Webmail (ie gmail). This means you can access these details if you are cut off from returning to your Assistance/Guide Dog.

Equipment:

- **Sturdy Lead, Harness, and Muzzle:** Plus any other sturdy kind of equipment that you think will help control your Assistance/Guide Dog, particularly in a stressful situation and that you can add further identification to. Think strong and reliable as your dog may panic and try and escape.
- **Passport & Other Identification:** Ensure you have your passport form of identification for your Assistance/Guide Dog at all times. It would also be worth considering obtaining another form of communication from your certifying organisation such as a letter addressed to you and detailing your relationship with the Assistance/Guide Dog.



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Safe Shelter Places

If you need to evacuate, take your Assistance/Guide Dog. Remember, if it is not safe for you to stay, then it is not safe for them or those who may try and rescue them. Trained Assistance/Guide Dogs are permitted in public emergency shelters. But you still need to plan and agree on a 'Safe House' in case you need to be hospitalised:

- **A Safe House:** Plan and agree with a family member or friend (who doesn't live with you and who has cared for your Assistance/Guide Dog in the past) if they will care for your animal for any length of time, in case of a disaster.
- **Place their full name, address and telephone number in your Disaster Survival Kit in a waterproof container.** All adults and children in your household should know these primary and alternative contacts (names/addresses/contact numbers) or always carry this information with them.
- **Show them and a neighbour where you Disaster Survival Kits are** (the one kit for you and your Assistance/Guide Dog staying put. And the other kit for you and your Assistance/Guide Dogs' getaway) as they may be able to assist you when disaster strikes.
- **Also show them how to access a spare key to your house,** or even better provide them with a key (as your hiding place may be destroyed in a disaster).
- **Have a plan to communicate with your contact after the event.** You will want to arrange a meeting place in a safe area so you can be reunited with your Assistance/Guide Dog.

Remember, Assistance/Guide Dogs are accepted in any public place. This includes welfare centres and temporary housing during emergencies. Please ensure you use these services if they are available. You will not be separated from your dog.

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