

Protect your pet in a disaster

Downloadable Disaster Pack for Birds

Just as you do with your family's Disaster Survival Kit, think first about the basics, for your bird – **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 bird 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 Bird – Checklist

Emergency Survival Items:

- **Food:** Store at least three days of non-perishable bird food in an airtight, waterproof container.
- **Water:** Store at least three days of water for your bird, in addition to the water you need for your family. Plus you will need extra water to clean up after your bird.
- **Medicines:** Store any extra supply of medicines your bird needs in a waterproof container, as well as any special dietary needs or supplements.
- **Veterinary/Medical Records:** Store copies of any medical records in a watertight container including your vet's name and telephone number (in case you have to board your bird or place them in foster care).
- **First Aid Kit:** Make up a first aid kit for your bird or add to your household's (human) first aid kit. But make sure you talk to your vet about any other requirements for your bird.
▶ [Click here for a full First Aid Kit for Pets](#)
- **Blanket/Bedding:** A cover to put over the cage or toys inside the cage, can help reduce stress for your bird.
- **Sanitation:** Include any pet litter or other useful items like newspaper, paper towels and household bleach (to dilute) to clean out the cage.

Identification:

- **Photograph:** Store a current photograph of your bird in a waterproof container, including notes on: distinguishing features, name, sex, colour and breed. Also include a photograph of you and your bird together as this helps prove they are yours if you become separated.
- **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 still access these vital details if you are cut off from returning to your bird.

Equipment:

- **Gloves:** Plus any other sturdy kind of equipment that you think will help handle and control your bird, particularly in a stressful situation. Think strong and reliable as your bird may panic and try and escape.
- **Cages or Carrier:** This is to transport your bird safely and ensure they cannot escape. Remember anything cardboard/paper based (ie pet carrier box) will disintegrate.

A cage/carrier should be large enough for your bird to stand comfortably and turn around and have adequate ventilation. Your bird may have to stay in the cage/carrier for days so include any favourite toys to reduce stress levels.

Make sure your bird's cage/carrier includes a tag that clearly states their name, your name, phone number and if there is room your address. Include a back-up tag in your bird's Disaster Survival Kit.



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Safe Shelter Places

If you need to evacuate, take your pet bird. Pets are part of the family and it is not okay to leave them behind. If it is not safe for you to stay, then it is not safe for them or those who may try and rescue them. Pets are usually not permitted in public shelters, so you need to plan and agree on a 'Safe House' or an animal shelter that you and your bird (or just your bird) could go to:

- **A Safe House:** Plan and agree with a family member or friend (who doesn't live with you and who has cared for your bird in the past) if they will care for your bird 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 your Disaster Survival Kits are** just in case you are not at home when disaster strikes and you are cut off from returning to your bird. This means your neighbour can at least feed and attend to your bird in the interim.
- **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 bird.

- **A Safe Shelter:** Make a list of contact information and addresses of potential 'pet friendly' shelters (motels that allow pets or local vet centres). Your local council may be able to assist you with this. Keep a list on you at all times and a copy in each of your Disaster Survival Kits.

At most locations you will need to provide veterinary records before boarding pets. Some shelters may even waive their 'no-pet' rule if your bird is housed in a cage/carrier (non-cardboard).

Always call ahead for a reservation as soon as you think you might have to evacuate from home.

Give it a go

To ensure your family and bird can move fast and feel comfortable if you need to stay put in a disaster, you should practice getting your family into your safe place in the house (where your disaster survival kits are kept). You can time yourselves and give it another go from time to time to see how fast (but not panicked) you can operate.

Then try again to your chosen 'Safe House/Shelter'. By practicing an evacuation your bird will get use to entering and travelling calmly in their cage/carrier.

Try doing both practice runs in the dark. This will ensure you can navigate quicker if a disaster strikes during the night or if there is a power cut.

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