

A photograph of a brown and black dog swimming in blue water. The dog's head and back are visible above the surface, and its tail is slightly raised. The water is a vibrant blue, and the background is a blurred blue sky.The logo for World Animal Protection, featuring the text "WORLD ANIMAL PROTECTION" in a bold, sans-serif font inside a white circle with a black border. A small orange dot is positioned at the top right of the circle, and a larger orange triangle points towards the bottom left of the circle.

WORLD  
**ANIMAL**  
PROTECTION

# Protect your pet in a disaster

## Downloadable Disaster Pack for Small Animals (mice, rats and guinea pigs)

Just as you do with your family's Disaster Survival Kit, think first about the basics, for your pet – **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 small animal 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 Small Animal – Checklist

### Emergency Survival Items:

- **Food:** Store at least three days of non-perishable pet food per pet in an airtight, waterproof container.
- **Water:** Store at least three days of water, in addition to the water you need for your family. Plus you will need extra water to clean up after your pet. If they are used to using a drinking bottle, keep a spare in the kit.
- **Medicines:** Store any extra supply of medicines your pet needs in a waterproof container as well as special dietary or behavioural condition needs.
- **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 pet or place them in foster care).
- **First Aid Kit:** Make up a first aid kit for your pet or add to your household's (human) first aid kit. But make sure you talk to your vet about any specific requirements that may be required beyond that in your household (human) first aid kit.  
▶ [Click here for a full First Aid Kit for Pets](#)
- **Blanket/Bedding:** Familiar items, like a favourite blanket or even a pillowcase they can bury into, can help reduce stress for your pet.
- **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:

- **Photograph:** Store a current photograph of your pet in a waterproof container, including notes on: distinguishing features, name, sex, age, colour and breed. Also include a photograph of you and your pet 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 pet.

### Equipment:

- **Cages or Carrier:** This is to transport your pet 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 pet to stand comfortably, turn around, and lie down and have adequate ventilation. Your pet may have to stay in the cage/carrier for hours at a time so include bedding and any favourite toy to reduce stress levels.

Small animals often feel safer if they are able to hide, so place a small cardboard box inside their cage.

Make sure your pet'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 pet's Disaster Survival Kit.



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## Safe Shelter Places

If you need to evacuate, take your pet. Pet's 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 pet (or just your pet) could go to:

- **A Safe House:** Plan and agree with a family member or friend (who doesn't live with you and who has ideally cared for your pet in the past) if they will care for your pet 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** (the one kit for you and your pet staying put. And the other kit for you and your pet's getaway) just in case you are not at home when disaster strikes and you are cut off from returning to your pet. This means your neighbour can at least feed and attend to your pet 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 pet.

- **A Safe Shelter:** Make a list of contact information and addresses of other potential places you may be able to leave your pet (motels that allow pets or local vet centres). 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 pet 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 pet can move fast and feel comfortable if you need to stay put in a disaster, you should practice getting your family unit into your safe place in the house (where your emergency 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 pet 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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