

Emergency Pet Preparedness

A Printable Resource with Tips for Pet Guardians

Step 1: Prepare Your Supplies, Including...

- **Food & Water:** Non-perishable foods are best and should be kept in airtight, waterproof containers. Also ensure you have enough water for yourself, family, and pets. We recommend having 10-14 days of consumables for all members of your pack.
- **Medication & Medical Records:** Important medications and health records should be kept in a waterproof container. Prepare a document that outlines the feeding and medication instructions for your pet. Include copies of up-to-date vaccination records, in case your pet needs to be housed at a boarding facility temporarily.
- **First Aid Kit:** Work with your veterinarian to determine what these supplies may include for your pet. Standard kits often include: cotton bandage rolls, bandage tape and scissors, antibiotic ointment, flea and tick prevention, medical gloves, isopropyl alcohol, and saline solution. A pet first aid reference book should also be included. *To learn more about Pet First Aid, [check out our course.](#)*
- **Collar with ID tag, harness and leash:** Permanent identification such as microchips, tattoos, and database registration (e.g. pet licensing through your local animal control) are always recommended. Additionally, pets should always wear a collar with ID tags and current vaccinations. Keeping a backup of these items in your supplies along with any pet registration and recent photo can be helpful if you become separated.
- **Crate or other pet carrier:** A carrier large enough for your pet to stand, turn around and lie down in will aid in their safety and comfort. Be proactive and ensure your pet is trained to comfortably enter and stay in a kennel for a period of time. See [our free behaviour resources for information on crate training.](#)
- **Sanitation:** Include litter and box if appropriate, newspapers, paper towels, plastic trash bags, and cleaning supplies such as pure chlorine bleach without scents, added cleaners, or marked as color safe. Bleach can be used as a disinfectant (diluted nine parts water to one part bleach) as well as to purify water in an emergency (16 drops to one gallon of water)
- **Familiar Items:** Favourite toys, treats, or bedding will help reduce stress for your pet.

Step 2: Plan for Action:

- **Gather information:** Ensure you gather as much information as possible and listen to the advice of local authorities, trusted media sources and follow all recommendations if told to evacuate, shelter-in-place, or seek medical treatment.
- **Speak to your local veterinarians:** They can provide information on possible shelters and services that your pet might need in an emergency. Have a list of these resources handy in your kit. You can also pick up a sticker or note for your home that indicates the number of and type of pets in your home for authorities, in case it isn't possible to take them with you -- for example, if you are taken to hospital.
- **Plan for where you or your pets may need to go:** In case you're unable to care for your pet due to an emergency, make a list of family, friends, kennels or boarding facilities where your pet could possibly go. Speak with these possible caregivers in advance so they have all the necessary details should anything happen.
- **Secure your kit and assign buddies:** Having your kit in a designated location and roles for family members can help save valuable time in an emergency. Assigning jobs and buddies helps give a sense of purpose and focus during times of uncertainty. Buddies can also be neighbors, friends, and relatives.

Step 3: Stay Informed & Confirm Your Kit

- Building your kit, having resources, as well as contact lists ready, and keeping informed of the most likely types of events in your region will help you navigate difficult times as safely as possible. Review trusted information from government agencies about the types of events and seek out additional recommendations and resources to strengthen your plan.
- Conduct an annual review your kit's contents to update any information that may have changed and manage any perishables in your kits by checking expiration dates on both food and medications.

The more you can do to prepare for an emergency, the less you will have to worry about if the unthinkable happens. Planning for your pets makes sense — start planning and building your kit today!

Other Resources for Pet Guardians

Alberta Emergency Boarding Services:

- [CAWS \(Companion Animal Welfare Society\) Guardian Angel Program](#) – For those who are hospitalized due to COVID-19 OR who are leaving situations of domestic violence and need care for their pets.

- [Alberta SPCA Pet Safekeeping Program](#) – For those who are leaving situations of domestic violence and need care for their pets

Pet Food Banks in Alberta

Location	Website	Phone
Edmonton	Boyle Street's Pet Food Bank	N/A
Edmonton & Alberta (Outside Calgary)	Alberta SPCA Help for Animals	See Website for Contact Form
Calgary	AARCS Food Assistance Program	Request Online
Red Deer	Alberta Animal Services or Red Deer Food Bank	403-347-2388 / 403-346-1505
Lethbridge	City of Lethbridge Pet Food Bank	403-320-4099
Nanton	NAPS Pet Food Bank	N/A
Fort McMurray	Fort McMurray SPCA Pet Food Bank	780-743-8997
Across Alberta (Edmonton, Red Deer, Claresholm, Strathmore, Crossfield, Cold Lake, Calgary, Bonnyville and Hines Creek)	ALPL Pet Food Banks	See Website for Contact Info Based on Location

Financial Supports for Veterinary Care:

- If you are low income, disabled or a senior residing within Alberta, speak to your veterinarian about eligibility through the [Tails of Help](#)
- If you are in Edmonton and from a vulnerable population, you may qualify for some assistance from the [Alberta Helping Animals Society](#).
- Inquire at your veterinary clinic about payment options or plans.
- Consider financing through [Petcard](#)
- [Many VCA Canada Veterinary Centres](#) have a financing option through PayBright and recommended pet insurance providers.

We also highly recommend checking out pet insurance options, like [Petsecure](#) — to help cover the costs of unexpected veterinary care in the future.

For more services and resources for pet guardians, visit our website and follow our socials!