

Emergency preparedness for your pet

Are you ready to care for your pet in the event of an emergency?



At 4.11pm, on Thursday, August 14, 2003, the lights went out! Not only the lights went out but EVERYTHING went out and we had no idea how long for. A lot of people we spoke to were prepared for an emergency for all the 2 legged creatures in their family, but not for the 4 legged family members. Do you remember, no water? No bank machines working? No debit machines to get cash out? No stores open to buy dog or cat food? No electric can opener working? No gas for our cars? Luckily that emergency was tolerable and didn't last too long. What if the next one lasts longer? Do you have an emergency kit ready for your pets? If not, these are the items you should consider having on hand, in a bag, in the front hall closet to grab so that your pet does not have to suffer any ill effects.

- Minimum 72 hour supply of food, if feeding can's don't forget a good old-fashioned manual can opener.
- Minimum 72 hour water supply
- Any medication your pet may need (put 72 hours worth of pills in a small pill container)
- Bowls – for when you have to leave your home.
- Blankets and towels – for when it is winter and the heat does not work.
- Collar with tags or better yet personalized collar with pet's name and number on it.
- Leash
- Poop bags
- Litterbox and litter for cats.
- Carrier
- Folder with copy of vet records, vet contact information, a current photo of your pet (if they get lost)
- Flashlight
- Pet First Aid Kit
- Your pet care providers contact information, and list of kennels and animal control services.

Check this kit twice a year. I recommend checking it when the clock changes – freshen the food and water, check expiry on medication, update information in file. We are lucky to live in an area where we do not have a lot of emergencies, but when they happen they are much easier to handle when you are prepared. **Now off you go to prepare your kit!**

