FOLLOWING A DISASTER

In Case of Evacuation

Red Cross shelters do not accept pets. So, prepare a list of back-up arrangements, such as homes of friends and family, hotels that allow pets, boarding facilities, veterinary hospitals, and/or animal shelters. If at all possible, DO NOT leave your pet behind when evacuating. If you must, follow these guidelines to help ensure your pet's safety:

- Post a highly visible sign in a window to let rescue workers know how many pets were left behind.
- Leave plenty of water in a large, open container which cannot be tipped over.
- Leave food in timed feeders (check local pet stores). These will prevent your pet from eating a week's worth of food in one day.
- NEVER cage your pet as the chances for survival are greater if your pet can escape easily.

If Your Pet Becomes Lost

- Immediately call or visit the nearest animal shelter to report your missing pet
- Check shelters' social media channels.
- When deemed safe, return to your neighborhood to post and distribute "Lost Animal" posters (posters available through marinhumane.org)
- Post to NextDoor.com
- Continue to search the area for your missing pet – a frightened animal may stay hidden for days

If You Find a Lost Pet

Notify the local animal shelter as soon as possible and be prepared to give a full description of the animal (i.e., breed, color and/or sex) and location. Remember that sick and/ or injured animals can become unpredictable from the stress of an injury and should be cared for by professionals familiar with proper handling techniques.

For more information about disaster preparation, please call 415.506.6209.

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Prepare

Pet Disaster Plan

Having a disaster plan for your beloved pets can make all the difference. Not only will it reduce stress, but it'll save precious time and possibly, lives.

Learn how to keep you and your pets safe during a disaster.

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BEFORE DISASTER STRIKES

Identify Your Pet

Keep your pet's license current and make sure that a collar and identification tag are worn at all times. Consider getting a safe, permanent microchip for your pet. A microchip ID cannot be lost or removed.

Crate Train Your Pet

Train your dog or cat to enter a carrier on command. Put his favorite treat in it and sound a bell at the same time. Repeat this process until he comes running at the sound of the bell. Continue this routine to keep it fresh in his mind. This will help you quickly locate and safely transport him to safety in times of emergency.

Secure Birdcages and Fish Tanks

Because these items may move and/or break during a disaster, securing them on low stands or tables will be helpful. Also, tighten the latch on your birdcage so that the door cannot be shaken open easily. .

Develop a Neighborhood Plan

Get to know your neighbors and their pets. Keep an updated list of their home, work, and mobile phone numbers (update every six months) and select a neighborhood coordinator who will be ready to assist should a disaster occur when you are not home. It is best that this person spends a lot of time at home or works within walking distance of the neighborhood. Select one or two back-up coordinators, in case the primary person is unavailable.

Prepare a PET DISASTER KIT

Keep a prepared pet disaster kit in a safe and easily accessible place.

Include:

- Sturdy crate and/or carrier
- Identification tag and collar for both dogs and cats
- Leashes
- Food/water (7-day supply for each pet)
- Non-spill bowls
- Litter/litterbox
- Medication, copy of vaccination history
- Phone numbers of emergency veterinary clinics – Pet Emergency & Specialty Center of Marin in San Rafael 415.456.7372
- Phone number of local animal shelter – Marin Humane provides 24/7 emergency assistance 415.883.4621
- Portable caging, cable runs and/or tie-out stakes

First Aid Kit, which should include:

- Bandages, scissors, tweezers, Q-tips, tape, antibiotic ointment
- Hydrogen peroxide (to induce vomiting or for cleaning deep wounds)
- Eye wash (saline) and ear cleaning (ChlorhexiDerm, Epi-otic) solutions