
Golden Retriever Rescue of Wisconsin, Inc.

Disaster Preparation**GRRoW Hotline: 888-655-4753**

The Golden Rule of Pet Preparedness in the Event of a Disaster

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To love and be loved by an animal is a privilege. To own and care for an animal is a responsibility that does not end. Please do all that you can to plan and take care of your pets in the event of a disaster.

Thinking "It'll never happen to me" will surely get you into trouble. No matter where we live, Wisconsin or Timbuktu, we need to be prepared to take care of our pets. In Wisconsin, that disaster could be a tornado, house fire, flood, or some other unthinkable event. There is much information on this topic for all animals. For the purpose of this newsletter, let's cover our dogs and cats. Preparing our pets for a

disaster requires immediate planning. Here are 10 simple steps to implement right away.

1. Go to your veterinarian with your pets to update vaccinations and routine medical care. Obtain copies of all vaccine and health records. Have your pets micro chipped for identification. Don't run low on important medications.
2. Order ID tags for your pets' collars. Always keep collars on your dogs!
3. Leave contact information, house key and directions with a neighbor or friend who is comfortable with your pets in the event that you are not home when a disaster occurs.
4. Develop an evacuation plan. In case of a tornado, have crates in place in your basement for all of your pets. To gather cats in the house, put them in pillow cases and then bring them downstairs to their crates. In case of a fire or other disaster where evacuation is necessary, have leashes, harnesses, and crates readily available for a speedy exit. Know the exit routes.
5. Evacuate efficiently to your "escape vehicle." Have plenty of food and water in the trunk and gas in the tank.
6. Never leave your pets behind. Assume and prepare to be gone two weeks.
7. Radios and cell phones and flashlights with extra chargers and batteries are essential.
8. Understand what disasters could occur in your area to better prepare for the unthinkable.
9. Label stickers and affix them to your home. Include number and types of animals that can be found in your home in case you are not home during the disaster.
10. Evacuation kits and first aid kits must be prepared in advance and placed in waterproof containers. Take them with you wherever you go.

Here are some ideas on what to include in your kits.

Evacuation Kit:

Medical records, current pictures of your pets, pet descriptions including distinguishing characteristics, emergency contact numbers, evacuation destination, 2 weeks supply of food and water, familiar blankets and toys, litter, scooper and boxes for cats, dishes, paper towels, trash bags, hand sanitizer.

First Aid Kit

Contact your veterinarian to put this together. Some ideas are bandage materials and scissors, sterile saline for eyes, Frontline, hydrogen peroxide, latex gloves, dawn dish soap, tourniquet, triple antibiotic ointment, towels, wash cloths, betadine, bandage tape, vet wrap, antidiarrheal (Immodium), cotton, etc.

Take these ideas, build on them and tailor them to fit your needs. Good luck and be ready!

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