



# Preparing for the Unexpected

My Vet \_\_\_\_\_

My Animal Shelter \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact \_\_\_\_\_

## EXTREME WEATHER

Any animal that spends time outdoors needs to have good shelter for protection from harsh weather conditions as well as an adequate water supply. When erecting a shelter, consider things like which direction the wind blows and if there is a nice, shady area you can take advantage of. Each dog will need their own doghouse. Also take into consideration the type of dog you have — dogs with either very heavy or very short coats are less able to take certain extremes in weather.

### Heat

Water is essential during extreme heat. A dogs' cooling system is not nearly as efficient as ours — we are able to sweat and cool ourselves down, whereas dogs are only able to cool themselves through panting and sweating through the pads of their paws. Humans often make the mistake of thinking that if they can do something physical their dog can, too. Be sure your dog is fit and has access to water when doing any kind of physical activity — especially in hot weather.



Never leave your dog (or any animal) in the car during hot weather. The temperature inside a parked car can quickly rise to 50 Degrees Celsius in just a few minutes, and animals, as well as humans, can die of heatstroke.

### Cold

Cold weather can be just as dangerous as hot weather. Be sure your animals have shelter from the wind, snow, etc. If it is extremely cold (below freezing) or unpleasant (hail) pets such as dogs and cats should be brought inside and only allowed out for short periods of time.

Short-haired dogs should wear a doggie sweater or coat in cold weather. You might also consider getting your dog some good quality booties if you live in a very cold climate.

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# Preparing for the Unexpected

## TRAUMATIC EVENTS

### Death or Illness

Try to make arrangements for your pets should something happen to you. Talk to family members, friends and your veterinarian about taking care of your pets in an emergency and leave clear instructions for emergency workers. There are facilities that will take animals if you make prior arrangements and leave a bequest to the facility. If you go this route, be certain that they are a reputable and caring facility and that it is a place your pets will be happy in for the remainder of their lives.

It is important that you have someone appointed to think of your pets — if you are in a car accident and your dog is with you, someone needs to check the local shelters, etc. When making tags for your pets, add an emergency contact phone number to the tag.

### Divorce

Many pets end up in shelters because of divorce. This is not an event that anyone wishes to “prepare” for, but it does happen and the animals suffer because of it. If at all possible, make arrangements with friends or family members to take your pets for a short time while you make arrangements.

**Planning ahead can help avoid oversights and can save our pets from stress, anxiety, injury and even death.**

## EMERGENCY SURVIVAL KIT

Have this kit ready and waiting, in case you have an emergency and need to take it with you. These are essential items – feel free to add other items if you wish. Pack everything in one bag so you can grab it as you’re running out the door. Change the food, water, diet supplements and medications regularly, so they don’t go bad. It is also now recommended that you microchip your pets for positive identification in case of an emergency.

- ❖ Food and water for 1 week
- ❖ Bowls for food and water
- ❖ Necessary medications and dietary supplements for one week
- ❖ Leashes and collars
- ❖ If your pet doesn’t wear a collar all the time, a collar with an ID tag
- ❖ Essential grooming tools
- ❖ Copies of health certificates (vaccinations, etc)
- ❖ Collapsible crate, bed, blanket and towel (the new soft-sided crates are ideal for this purpose)
- ❖ Toys
- ❖ First aid items: gauze, tape, hydrogen peroxide, cotton swabs, ointment, splints, tweezers, bandages, animal first aid book
- ❖ Flashlight
- ❖ Photos of your pet



**urban**  
DOG TRAINING

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