

HOW TO

KEEP PETS DISASTER SAFE

By Dr Lorraine O'Neill



WELCOME

This ebook is free to all pet lovers – so pass it on!



This ebook is designed as a reference and guide to assist you in case of an emergency or disaster evacuation situation.

Copyright © 2022 VetPet Academy All rights reserved.

Photos courtesy of: A Cooper, Unsplash; Jose Hernandez, Vasiliki, Heri Susilo, Nathan Anderson, Zoe Gayah Zonker, Than Hien, Priscilla Du Preez, Beth McDonald, Alexis Chloe, Louis Philippe Pitras, Adobe Stock

A black and white photograph of a golden retriever and a black and white cat looking out a window. The dog is on the left, looking towards the camera, and the cat is on the right, looking out the window. The background is a bright, slightly blurred outdoor scene.

Table of CONTENTS

— 04

BE PREPARED

What to do if a disaster strikes

— 06

JUST IN CASE PLAN

When the unexpected happens

— 10

BEFORE A DISASTER OCCURS

Be prepared beforehand

— 12

PET DISASTER KIT

Get ready check list

— 16

AFTER THE DISASTER

Returning home isn't 'normal'

1 BE PREPARED

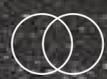
So many times, on social media, when it comes to rescuing pets you hear people asking, “what should I do?”.

Research published in the Australian Journal of Emergency Management stated that a third of pet owners are unprepared when a disaster strikes (Taylor, Lynch, Burns, Eustace , 2015) and that pet owners are less likely to evacuate if they cannot take their pets.

Whether it's flood, fire, another type of disaster or an unforeseen emergency, you should be prepared not only for the safety of your family but also the safety of your pet.

Don't wait until the last minute, plan and prepare – your pet's life could depend on it.





**You have the power
to protect your pet**



2 JUST IN CASE PLANNING

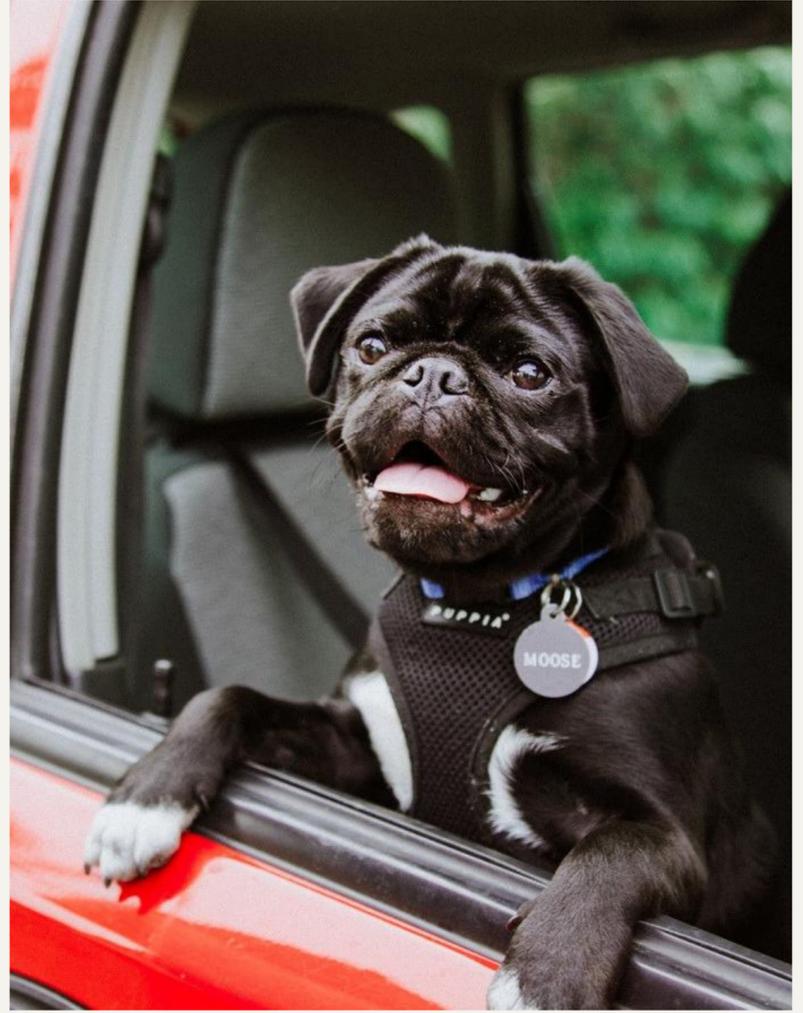
When something unexpected happens and you can't get home - you need what I call a 'Just In Case Plan'



Get Your Pet Ready

The UnKnown

Emergencies can happen at any time, any day, anywhere. Ask yourself what will happen if you are suddenly taken ill, if you're involved in an accident or you can't get home for some unforeseen reason.



ID Is Important

It's Up To You

If anything happens to you or an unexpected emergency occurs, have you a plan in place to make sure your pet is safe and taken care of if you can't get home?

PLAN AHEAD IN 5 STEPS

1 Give a spare key to someone you trust, a family member, a friend or a neighbour. Someone who is comfortable around your pet - and who your pet knows.

2 Discuss with your trusted contact what to do with your pet in case of an emergency. Would they be willing to care for your pet, take your pet into their home if needed or evacuate your pet if you can't?

3 If you don't have anyone you trust (or even better, you wish to have a back-up plan) then find a local cattery, kennel or pet sitter - make sure they offer a pick-up and drop-off service - visit them to make sure you are happy with their facilities and they are able to help you 'just in case'.

4 Keep your pet's lead, collar etc., in one place - preferably near the door so they are quick and easy to get to. If you have a carrier or crate put that near the door or somewhere easy to locate so your trusted contact can find it quickly.

5 Just in case you are unable to get back home for a few days create a pet emergency kit (see Chapter 4).



Remember: it's always a good idea if you use a carrier or crate to get your pet use to it. This not only assists your trusted contact in handling your pet quickly and easily, it will also help to reduce your pet's anxiety at what could be a very stressful time.



∞ Play it safe
and plan

3

B E F O R E A D I S A S T E R

The most important part of developing a disaster plan for your pets is to be prepared before the disaster or emergency occurs!



THE CALMER YOU
ARE THE CALMER
AND LESS STRESSED
YOUR PET WILL BE

REMEMBER

THINK AHEAD



Involve the whole family

I.

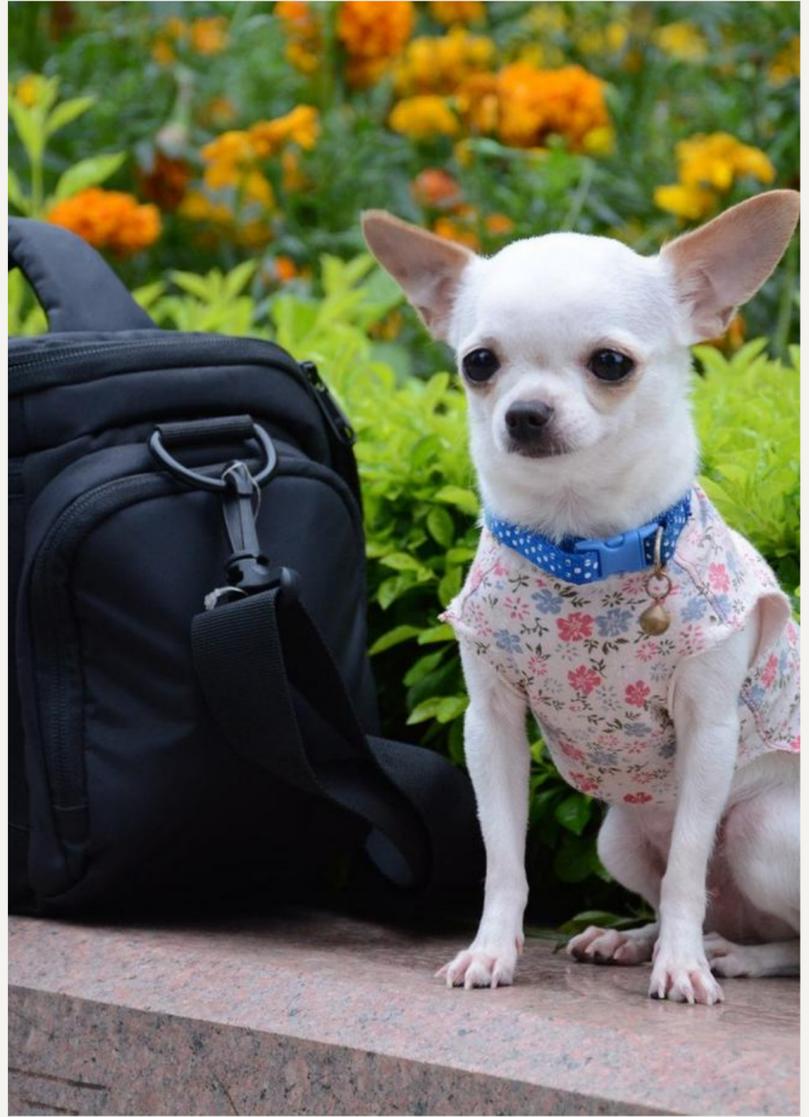
- Before a disaster occurs, prepare your pet so they (and you) are less stressed when they need to be evacuated in a hurry. It's always a good idea to involve the whole family, including children, about evacuation procedures or what to do in an emergency.
- Check locations of pet friendly hotels or other types of accommodation that have pet friendly facilities, including evacuation centres, that would be available to you - both in and around your area (you never know how far you will have to go to be safe!).



Microchip Pets

II.

- Have collars with at least your phone number and your pet's name on it – details can be either embroidered on the collar or engraved on a disc.
- Microchip your pet. Vets, councils and rescue services can scan and relocate you through information on a microchip.



Pet Carrier Training

III.

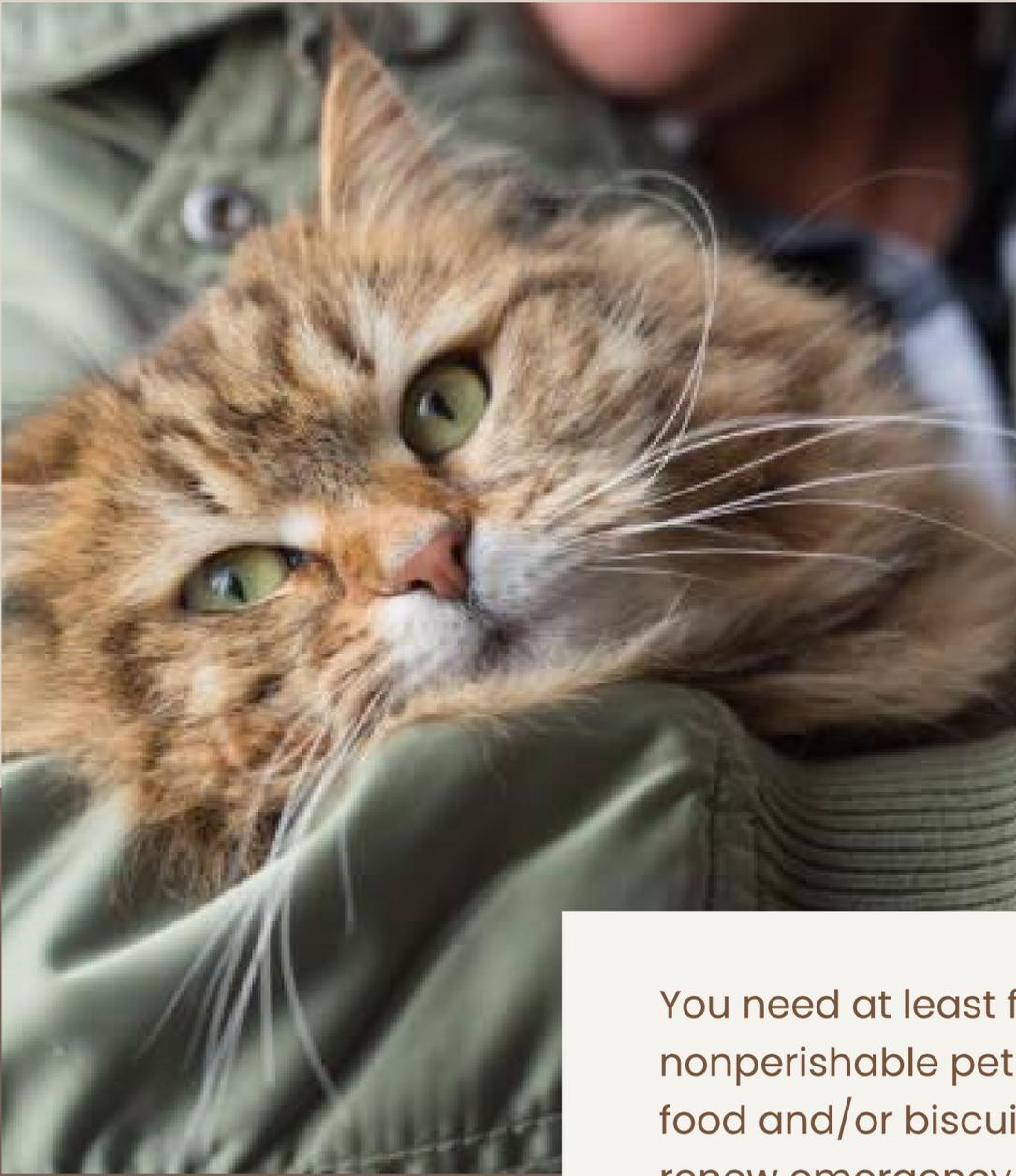
- If using a pet crate or carrier, train your pet to be carried in them. Make the carrier a safe, comfortable place for them to be (don't just use the carrier to go to the vets!).
- Take your pet for a few trips in the car so they get used to travelling. Reward them when you get them home – make it a fun adventure.

4 PET DISASTER KIT

Some countries have areas that are prone to certain seasonal disasters, such as floods or fires, these natural disasters might require evacuation. Every member of your family should know what he or she needs to take when you evacuate. You also need to prepare for your pet.

If you know you might be in a disaster area each season check your Pet Disaster Kit and stock up on new nonperishable pet food. You never know when you might be evacuated or in some areas stranded until help comes so have everything ready at short notice. Keep everything in one place and stored in a strong, sturdy container, such as, a plastic box or canvas bag (a good sturdy canvas bag I find is easier to move and carry).





It's a good idea to learn pet first aid and have a pet first aid book on hand.

The following checklist covers the main items required for an emergency evacuation – it may alter depending on your pets needs or your circumstances.

You need at least five (5) days' worth of nonperishable pet food and water e.g. canned food and/or biscuits (don't forget to replace and renew emergency food and water each season).

A food and water bowl (plastic or foldable travel bowls are best as they are light and easy to transport).

Blankets or lightweight bed plus a favourite toy.

For cats have a lightweight litter box with scoop and a bag of litter (add some plastic bags for waste too).

Lead or/and harness plus a collar with name tag and your details.

If using a pet carrier make sure your details and details of your pet is also on the carrier.

Any medications – if your pet needs them. Put medications into a plastic bag so they stay together and keep dry.

A pet first aid kit (see following page for more detail).

PET EMERGENCY FIRST AID KIT



THANK YOU

THIS SECTION HAS BEEN
PROVIDED BY FURKIDS FIRST AID
WWW.FURKIDSFIRSTAID.COM

PET FIRST AID KIT

It is best to have a couple of first aid kits ready and accessible – place one in your home and one in your car. Whatever you have in your First Aid Kit ensure it is good quality. A First Aid Kit for humans will be helpful in many emergencies, although specific Pet Emergency First Aid Kits can be purchased online or you can make up your own using the list below:

- Adhesive hypoallergenic tape
- 2.5cm, 5cm and 10cm non-adherent dressings
- 5cm, 7.5cm and 10cm cohesive bandages (*the ones that stick to themselves*)
- Gauze rolls and pads (*gauze rolls can also be used as a makeshift muzzle for dogs*)
- Iodine antiseptic wipes
- Thermometer
- Stethoscope
- Sterile wound dressings
- Antiseptic or wound cream
- 5ml syringe
- Sterile eye wash
- Blunt nose scissors
- Tweezers
- Tick tweezer (Qld and NSW)
- A lubricant jelly such as vaseline or Aloe Vera Gel
- Ice/Heat pack
- Disposable gloves
- Emergency thermal blanket



Keep yourself
and your pet
safe.



5 AFTER THE DISASTER

After a disaster, your home, scents and landmarks may have changed dramatically. Your pet can become disorientated so keep your pet on a leash or in their carrier until you get into your home. Only let them free when you are sure everything is safe and secure.

On returning home check for sharp objects, chemical spills or exposed wiring and check for downed power lines, snakes and other dangerous obstacles outside.

So many factors need to be considered before you can safely let your pet roam normally. Many pets get lost after a disaster due to stress, changed environments, lack of supervision or disorientation.

When you go home - it may seem ok, but do a safety and security check before letting your pets roam freely.





So, until your home returns to 'normal' and your pets can return to their 'normal' routine, follow these suggestions:

- Keep your cat inside until things calm down and your pet recognizes home again.
- Cats are generally more nervous and likely to roam after a disaster so this could take several weeks.
- Similar to cats, keep your dog inside if possible.
- When you need to take your dog outside for exercise or for toilet time keep them on a leash, even if you have a fenced, secure yard, supervise your pet when they go outside until you know its safe.
- Be patient and calm with your pets after a disaster It may take some time for them to feel safe once again.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

A practicing Canine Myo-Functional Therapist and author of several animal-care related publications, Dr Lorraine O'Neill has over 30 years' experience in management and the animal industry business. After working with veterinarians in both large and small practices, she successfully worked with veterinarians and other animal related businesses improve practices and profitability. Lorraine went on to complete an MBA and PhD where she lectured in management and marketing at Universities across Australia. A proven business entrepreneur, Lorraine and her husband established and sold several successful businesses, including a multi-million-dollar pet retreat. Lorraine now trains in vet nursing and animal care, focusing on supporting students, assisting business owners and promoting animal well-being.



DEDICATION

For all the animal lovers out there, who might one day be in need of a helping hand when disaster strikes. I hope this little ebook gives you some peace of mind.



OTHER RESOURCES



PET HEALTH COURSES

BE YOUR PETS BEST FRIEND

Emergency First Aid for Dogs
Emergency First Aid for Cats
Introduction to Canine Massage Therapy



Suitable for cat and dog owners, kennel or cattery attendants, rescue centres and pet sitters



Indepth and practical courses on Emergency First Aid or Pet Massage Therapy



Online courses written by experts. Fully compatible with all computers and mobile devices - learn anywhere at anytime



Receive a Certificate of Achievement on completion. Participants receive an accompanying Emergency First Aid A-Z Guide



Affordable choices with added benefits for students



ENROL NOW!

100% Satisfaction Guaranteed



FOR MORE INFORMATION
www.vetpetacademy.com

FurKids First Aid

EMERGENCY FIRST AID FOR CATS A-Z GUIDE

A free e.Book for all cat owners
Collated by Dr L O'Neill



FurKids First Aid

EMERGENCY FIRST AID FOR DOGS A-Z GUIDE

A free e.Book for all dog owners
Collated by Dr L O'Neill



A VETPET PUBLICATION

EMERGENCY FIRST AID A-Z GUIDES

The FurKids First Aid A-Z Guide is an intensive online pet first aid ebook that is affordable and easy to understand.

It provides assistance and guidance in case of an emergency covering a comprehensive list of topics including; CPR, choking, bleeding, trauma, poisoning, thermal emergencies, dealing with wounds, etc.

This intensive guide is fully downloadable and is mobile friendly - so you can have it at your fingertips at home, while outside or in your car for when you are traveling.

Available from Amazon or
Online at www.vetpetacademy.com or
www.furkidsfirstaid.com

Students enrolled in a FurKids First Aid training course receive a free Dog or Cat Emergency First Aid A-Z Guide.

HOW TO START A
**KENNEL
BUSINESS**

By Dr Lorraine O'Neill



A VETPET PUBLICATION

HOW TO START A KENNEL BUSINESS

If you have been dreaming of starting your own kennel business then read this ebook. Full of practical tips and advice ranging from kennel design, costing to dealing with difficult dog and human situations. Learn how to overcome start-up barriers and incorporate future growth ideas. Written from the authors own experiences it uses real-life examples of what it takes to develop a profitable dog boarding facility. Once you've read this ebook you will be able to make informed decisions about what to do, what not to do and how to do a dog kennel business well.

Available from Amazon or
Online at www.vetpetacademy.com

HOW TO START A
**CATTERY
BUSINESS**

By Dr Lorraine O'Neill



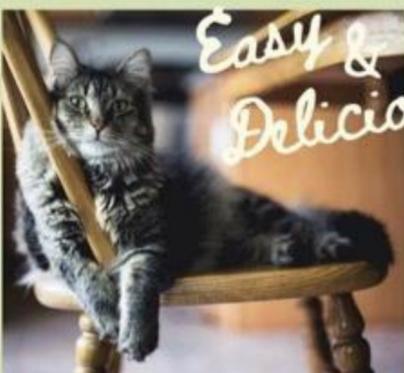
A VETPET PUBLICATION

HOW TO START A CATTERY BUSINESS

If you are a cat lover dreaming of owning your own cattery, then this easy to read ebook will provide you with behind the scenes information on setting up the perfect feline facility. Full of tips and advice about care, clients, finances, health and other important factors, the author covers a wide range of issues not usually discussed in business books, from set-up issues and dealing with tricky situations - both human and animal - taken from her own experiences. This ebook will provide you with the ideas, practical information, design advice and inspiration to help you create your perfect cattery.

Available from Amazon or
Online at www.vetpetacademy.com

FurKid Recipes
KITTYCAT TREATS
HOME COOK BOOK



A VetPet Academy Publication
www.vetpetacademy.com

A VETPET PUBLICATION

PET RECIPES

Filled with yummy treat recipes for cats and dogs - your pet will love you forever.

Available from Amazon
or
Online at
www.vetpetacademy.com

FurKid Recipes
DOGGY DELIGHTS
HOME COOK BOOK



A VETPET ACADEMY PUBLICATION
WWW.VETPETACADEMY.COM



A special thank you to all the emergency service workers and volunteers who put themselves at risk to save our families and our pets when a disaster strikes.
