

Creating a Pet-Disaster Plan Copyright © OurDogHouse

When emergency strikes home, most of us understand we need to have a plan in place beforehand, so that every second we have can be used as efficiently as possible. However, all too often we forget to incorporate the needs of the family pet into those plans or to create a new one just for them..

Just like their human counterparts, pets have needs when disaster hits. Let's look at a few ways to create a disaster plan for your furkids.

Have what many of us call a jump bag or kit. The main premise behind this is to gather items that could be needed in the event of a disaster and keep them in a handy, readily available area where everyone in the family knows its location. This container needs to be easily portable in case of an evacuation.

Your kit should contain at least basic first aid items for the family pet. If your pet is on any medication that can be safely stored in the container, do so. By safely we mean for the safety of the pet and other family members such as young children and contamination issues. If you do store pet medicines, remember to rotate them periodically. If the medication cannot be stored in the container safely, attach a note to the handle so you will remember to grab it and put it into the container before leaving.

Additionally, your kit should include an updated copy of your family pet's medical records such as shots, allergies and illness. It's a good idea to have a photo of your fur-kid. Lastly, include a complete list of emergency phone numbers. We use two zip lock bags to store these copies within the container.

Food and water are essential items that need to be put into the container. These can be gathered before leaving. Make sure the food for your dog or cat is something they like and are use to. Fresh water for the pet is also essential. A tip I learned when camping is to carry what is called a SteriPEN, which kills most bacteria and viruses by means of an ultraviolet light. It can be purchased over the Internet or at your favorite camping outlet.

If for any reason you and your pet should become disconnected in a disaster, an ID is the best way to be reunited. There are many ways from dog tags to having your family pet micro chipped or both for identification. Make sure to stash a good leash, collar or harness in your container. I would also put dry towels, wipes and even toys in the kit.

When a disaster strikes there is all too often not enough time to prepare. Therefore, the preparation you do today will create a blueprint to follow if ever you should need it. Lastly, please check with your city's evacuation policies. Congress has requested each state and local government to have a plan in place for humans as well as their pets to evacuate in the time of a disaster. I would also strongly advise that if those polices are not in the best interest of your family pet then help create changes in those polices.

3. Dog-gone Great!

Belle the Beagle Wins Award!

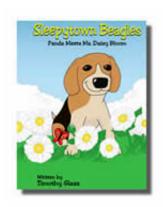
You may remember our story last month about Belle, the beagle who saved her owner's life by using his cell phone to dial 911.

Belle was honored in Washington, DC with the VITA Wireless Samaritan Award. This award is given to someone who used a cell phone to save a life, prevent a crime or help in an emergency. Belle was the first canine recipient to win the award.

You can see a picture of Belle with her award and read the complete story by clicking the link below.

Link: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/13439261/

4. OurDogHouse Designer in The News!



On sale now! Click here.

For years you have enjoyed his witty sense of humor and images he creates just for OurDogHouse. Tim Glass, our designer, has just released the first book in his children's book series, about what else ...dogs, <u>Sleepytown Beagles</u>, <u>Panda Meets</u> <u>Ms. Daisy Bloom</u>.

Sleepytown Beagles is a journey into a peaceful, calm and secure place children can

visualize and drift off to sleep. Combined with this visualization is an educational story with the lovable characters of the Sleepytown Beagles.

OurDogHouse has reviewed it and gave it 4 paws up! A wonderful gift just in time for Christmas.

Tim is also donating a portion from each royalty check to a Beagle rescue group

We hope you enjoyed visiting with us this month. We welcome