

**Start
Making
Emergency
Plans
for
your
Pet
TODAY**

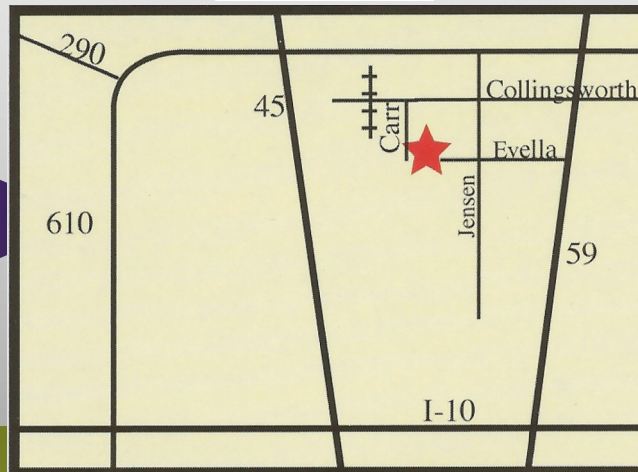
Our pets are an integral part of the family and ensuring that we include them in planning strategies for emergencies is important. Houston's proximity to the Gulf of Mexico puts the city at an especially high risk for hurricanes. You and your pets' survival in an emergency such as a hurricane, tornado, flood or other disaster largely depends on whether or not you plan for emergencies before disaster strikes.

Thinking ahead of time about what you would do with your pet in an emergency will help reduce stress during a disaster situation. Have a plan for if you stay at home during an emergency and another for if you decide to evacuate to a safer location. In both cases, be sure to build a supply kit with items your pet needs most. Remember that the safest option for you is most likely the safest for your pet as well. However, if you evacuate to a public shelter, pets may not be allowed or they may have to stay in a different area of the shelter. Make a list ahead of time of alternative places for your pet to stay.

Also consider creating a buddy system with your friends and family so that your pet is taken care of in case you are not able to do so during an emergency. Always be ready to make due with what you have. At a minimum, have enough food and water to last at least three days.

For more information about BARC Animal Shelter and Adoptions, visit:

www.HoustonBARC.com
[www.Facebook.com/BARCHouston](https://www.facebook.com/BARCHouston)
[www.Twitter.com/BARC_Houston](https://www.twitter.com/BARC_Houston)



BARC's Facility and Hours:

3200 Carr Street
 Houston, TX 77026
 Phone: 3-1-1
 Tuesday—Wednesday & Friday—Sunday
 Noon to 6 p.m.

*We are BARC.
 We care deeply about animals.*

**DO YOU HAVE A
 PLAN
 FOR YOUR PETS
 IF DISASTER
 STRIKES?**



**PREPARE
 TODAY.**



STEP 1

Prepare a Pet Emergency Supply Kit.

Creating an emergency supply kit for your pets is key in case of an emergency. If you wait until an emergency to pack a supply kit, your risk of forgetting something or not having immediate access to a key piece of the kit increases. Pack the kit for your pet much like you would pack one for your family before an emergency. Consider keeping two kits: one in case you stay at your home during an emergency and one if you evacuate. Here are the items you'll need in an emergency supply kit:

Food and water. Be sure to pack at least 5 to 7 days of food and water in an airtight, waterproof container. Don't forget to pack bowls.

Medications and medical records. Keep an extra supply of your pet's regular medications in a waterproof container. Be sure your pet is up to date on all of its vaccines. You will need this if your pet needs to be boarded at any shelter or veterinary office.

First Aid Kit. Your pet may need specific items in an emergency first aid kit, depending on its health needs. It's best to talk to your veterinarian about what works best for your pet. Most kits include cotton bandage rolls, bandage tape and scissors, antibiotic ointment, flea and tick prevention, latex gloves, isopropyl alcohol and saline solution. Include a pet first aid reference book.

Collar with ID tag, harness or leash. Make sure your pet wears a collar with license and rabies tags, as well as an identification tag with your contact information on it at all times. Keep an extra leash or harness in your emergency kit in case it's not readily accessible during an emergency. Also ensure your pet is microchipped as this will identify your pet in case it is lost and the collar is removed.

Photos. Include photos of you with your pet for identification purposes in case you get separated from him or her.



Crate or other pet carrier.

If you have to leave your home immediately during an emergency, a pet carrier will help keep your pet safe and prevent them from running away if they are frightened. Be sure the crate or carrier is comfortable for your pet.

Sanitation. Include pet litter and a litter box if appropriate, newspapers, paper towels, trash bags and disinfectant cleaning products.

Toys, treats or bedding. These familiar items can help reduce stress for your pet in a time of emergency.

Important documents. Place copies of your pet's registration information, adoption papers, vaccination documents (including a rabies certificate), and information on pet feeding schedules, medical conditions and your veterinarian's contact information in a waterproof bag or container.

STEP 2

Have a plan.

The likelihood of survival for you and your pet during an emergency largely depends on how you prepare ahead of time. Don't wait until the last minute to create a safety plan. Consider what you and your family will do with your pet if an emergency occurs. Decide whether or not it's best for your family and pets to stay at home or leave.

Plan to stay. If you decide to stay home during an emergency, be sure you have everything your pet may need. Bring pets indoors well in advance of a storm and be sure to reassure them and remain calm. Talk with your friends and neighbors about your emergency plan and develop a buddy system with them so that your pet's needs can be met in case you are unable to return home to care for them in an emergency.

Plan to evacuate. If an emergency requires you to evacuate, plan how you will gather your pet's supplies and think about where you will go. If you plan to travel with your pet, create a list of places that allows pets in the area where you plan to evacuate. If you choose to board your pet, make a list of local shelters or other boarding facilities ahead of time.



Talk to your pet's veterinarian. Discuss what specific items may need to be in an emergency kit, make a list of veterinarians, including their contact information in cities where you may seek shelter during an emergency.

STEP 3

Stay informed after the disaster.

After the emergency and dangerous conditions have passed, walk pets on a leash until they become re-oriented with their home. After a disaster, familiar scents and landmarks can appear very different and pets could become confused. Always closely observe the area where you walk your pet, as debris, downed powerlines, high water and other threats may be present.

Stay informed. Having a way to stay informed about emergencies is key to planning ahead and staying safe in the midst of a disaster. When you know that an emergency is pending, such as a hurricane, tornado or other natural disaster, stay alert to what's going on via television, internet or even social media, and decide what the next steps might be for you and your family.

Visit www.HoustonOEM.net and sign up for AlertHouston, the City's emergency email notification system to stay informed about emergencies in the Houston area.

Lost pets. If your pet is lost during a disaster, take A.C.T.I.O.N. with BARC. Learn more about BARC's lost pets program by visiting www.HoustonBARC.com. Your best chance of finding your lost pet after a disaster is immediate action. Register your lost pet and search through the dogs and cats at BARC's facility on www.PetHarbor.com and visit the shelter at 3200 Carr Street regularly to ensure you find your pet if it enters BARC.