

# **Emergency Preparedness for Pets**

Presented to AWAC, March 7,  
2013

## **The Importance of a Plan**

- Threats of emergency events, especially those requiring evacuation of people and pets, are real:
  - Hurricane
  - Tornado
  - Flood
  - Earthquake
  - Chemical Spill
  - Other natural and manmade events, such as landslide, fire, meteor/asteroid strike (less likely, but possible!)

## **The Importance of an Emergency Plan**

- Failure to plan = animals getting left behind, lost, injured and/or dying.

## **Steps to Emergency Plan**

- **Step 1: Prepare a pet emergency supply kit (with minimum of 3 days-worth of supplies):**
  - Food and water
  - Medicines and medical records
  - First aid kit
  - Collar with ID tag
  - Pet carrier
  - Sanitation
  - Familiar items (toys, blanket, etc.)
  - Harness, leash
  - Photo of you and pet together

## **Steps to an Emergency Plan**

- **Step 2: Plan what you will do in an emergency**
  - Determine whether to stay put or get away and plan for both possibilities
  - Assemble same type of kit for self, family and pets regardless of type of emergency
  - Create an emergency getaway plan
  - Secure shelter for your pet
  - Develop a buddy system
  - Talk to your vet about emergency planning
  - Obtain “Pets Inside” stickers for your doors and windows
  - Prepare pet information/ID sheets

## **Steps to an Emergency Plan**

- **Step 3: Know about the emergencies expected in your area and stay tuned to the latest information:**
  - Stay tuned to news reports/updates.
  - Be aware of emergency planning information prepared by the federal, provincial and municipal governments.

## Useful References

- [http://www.toronto.ca/animal\\_services/preparingpetsforemergency.htm](http://www.toronto.ca/animal_services/preparingpetsforemergency.htm)
- <http://www.crd.bc.ca/animal/documents/emergency-preparedness-pet-id.pdf>
- <http://www.ontariospca.ca/what-we-do/investigations/emergency-preparedness-for-pets.html>



# Emergency Survival Kits

Emergencies and disasters can happen at any time.

This could mean utilities are out, roads are closed and you can't get the crucial supplies you need.

You should be prepared to take care of yourself and your family for up to three days in the event of an emergency or disaster.

Keep your kit stored in a place everyone in your family knows about.

## Make Sure your 72 Hour Emergency Survival Kit contains:

- Flashlight and batteries
- Radio and batteries or crank radio
- Spare batteries
- Family first aid kit
- Candles and matches/lighter
- Extra car keys and cash
- Important papers (identification)
- Clothing and footwear
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Toilet paper and other personal items
- Medication, spare glasses, aids
- Whistle, (to attract attention, if needed)
- Playing cards, games, toys
- Manual can opener, bottle opener
- Map of the City
- Duct tape and plastic sheeting
- Corded telephone (non electricity dependent)
- Baby supplies/diapers
- Pet food and supplies
- Pocket knife or multi tool
- Container or back pack or bag for your kit
- Cook stove, lantern and fuel (follow manufactures instructions; never use barbecues indoors)
- Disposable; cups and plates; knife, forks and spoons
- Water at least four litres per person per day (bottled) should be allocated – two for drinking and two for food preparation, hygiene and dishwashing. Keep a supply of water purification tablets on hand as well.
- Food for 3 days per person

Choose ready-to-eat foods that your family likes and that don't need refrigeration: Canned food, such as soups, stews, baked beans, pasta, meat, poultry, fish, vegetables, fruits. Crackers and biscuits, honey, peanut butter, syrup, jam, salt and pepper, sugar, instant coffee, tea.

*Note: Consume and replace canned food and dry goods once a year.*

Know the risks

Make a plan

Prepare a kit

### Why 72 Hours?

People must be prepared to cope on their own for at least the first 72 hours (three days) of a disaster. This allows emergency workers to focus on people in most urgent need.

Preparation you can't live without.



## Grab and Go bag

If you are asked to evacuate to a reception centre, or family/friend's residence, bring with you:

- Clothing and footwear
- Prescription drugs (check dates /rotate supply)
- ID/photos of family
- Personal care items
- Hand sanitizer
- Non-perishable healthy snacks
- Playing cards, Games, iPod, etc.
- Baby supplies and diapers
- Duffle bag or back pack for kit

*Important papers, insurance, contact - phones numbers, certificates, health cards, etc.*

## Car Emergency Kit

- Flashlight and batteries
- Radio and batteries or crank radio
- Spare batteries
- Vehicle first aid kit, safety seatbelt cutter
- Candles and matches/lighter
- Booster cables, tow chain/rope
- Fire extinguisher (ABC type)
- Tire pump/inflator and tire gauge
- Gas container, vehicle fluids survival blankets, hot packs
- Loud whistle, emergency/help sign
- Emergency food/water
- Emergency flares and safety triangle
- Shovel, multi tool, snow brush/scrapper
- Sand, salt or kitty litter, traction mats
- Compass, road maps paper towels or cloth

## Pet Emergency Kit

- Include a three-day supply of pet food and water
- Bowls and medications
- Paper towels, can opener
- Blanket, small toy
- Sturdy leash, harness, collar
- Cat litter pan, plastic bags
- Carrier for transportation, crate
- Medical-vaccination records, current photo
- Up-to-date ID tag, copy of licence Muzzle if required

## Apartment Emergency Kit

- Flashlight and batteries
- Building manager or superintendent contact information
- Know where all escape routes and location of emergency doors and exits are on each floor
- Personal alarm (or whistle) to draw attention to your whereabouts

## Seniors' Emergency Kit

- Medic alert bracelet and identification
- List of medication, prescriptions, allergies and special food requirements
- Service animal emergency kit, mobility support requirements

## Special Needs Emergency Kit

- Set up a support network with family, friends and a out of town contact
- Extra, spare assistive devices, hearing aids, glasses, personal amplifier
- Alternate/back up plan on any life sustaining equipment or apparatus
- Medical testing equipment (kits) supply of testing strips, record book, alarms
- Think of any special needs someone in your family might have, and include any other items that your family would need. Here are some suggestions:

### Babies/toddlers

- Diapers, bottled milk, extra cloths, formula and food, toys, crayons and paper

### Other family members

- Keep at least one week's supply of medication in your emergency kit and include extra eyeglasses, spare batteries for medical appliances and an extra oxygen cylinder if needed. Include copies of prescriptions for your medicine and glasses



**For more tips on emergency preparedness:**

[www.london.ca/emergency](http://www.london.ca/emergency) [www.ontario.ca/emo](http://www.ontario.ca/emo) [www.GetPrepared.ca](http://www.GetPrepared.ca)





**Buster**  
Collingwood, ON

## Pet Emergency Survival Kit Checklist

Prepare a pet emergency survival kit and keep it with your family kit. Be sure to check the expiry date of your contents twice a year.

Recommended items for dogs and cats:

- Food, water, bowls, manual can opener and spoon
- Up-to-date ID tag
- Current photo of you and your pet
- Emergency contact list of pet friendly hotels/motels outside your area, friends, relatives and your veterinarian
- Copies of medical records/vaccinations
- Information on feeding schedule, medical and/or behavioural problems
- Medications and first aid kit
- Familiar bedding, small toy and brush
- Leash, collar or harness and muzzle (dogs)
- Litter/pan and scooper (cats) or poop n' scoop bags (dogs)
- Carrier large enough to transport and house your pet

Emergency kit supplies vary for different kinds of animals. Please contact your veterinarian or visit [www.ontariospca.ca](http://www.ontariospca.ca) if you have any questions.

## Pets and Evacuations

*If it's too dangerous for you to stay, it's too dangerous for your pet to stay.*

If safety permits, pets should not be left behind during an evacuation as they may be lost, injured or even killed as a result of the emergency. Plan ahead to ensure that you have a safe place to take your pet.

- Find out about your municipality's evacuation centre locations and related pet policies.
- Contact hotels and motels outside your immediate area and check their policy on accepting pets during an emergency.
- Ask friends and relatives outside your immediate area if they could shelter your pet(s) during an emergency.
- Include your pet in any local or family emergency drills and exercises.

If an emergency occurs when you are not at home, you can still be prepared. Set up a buddy system with your neighbour. Make arrangements that in the event of an emergency and you are not home they will take care of your pet.



**Jimmy**  
Sarnia, ON

## Pets and Emergencies

Pets are members of the family. Make sure to include your pets when developing your family emergency plan. Making arrangements before an emergency will increase your pet's chances for survival and ability to cope. Assemble a pet emergency survival kit and be ready to take your pet and their kit with you in the event you have to evacuate.

# Dog, cat foster homes should 'come into the light' says AWAC

London Community News by Craig Gilbert

London's Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC) wants their foster care providers to "come out of the darkness and into the light."

The chair of the 14-member AWAC, Sara Rans told the community and protective services committee of city council in January the committee wants families who foster dogs and cats to be exempted from a municipal bylaw that restricts households from having more than three dogs and two cats per adult.

She specified that the foster homes she referred to are those working with established rescue groups well known to the city administration.

"We have way too many dogs and cats who need homes right now," Rans said. "To be able to change that bylaw and exempt foster families would alleviate a lot of pressure on the system. Rescue groups have been operating in a crisis situation for a very long time now."

Foster families need to be able to operate "openly" and socialize the animals as they prepare them for adoption. That is difficult to do with the threat of a bylaw charge looming over them.

According to Rans some foster families worry a dispute with a neighbour over an unrelated issue could result in their being snitched out.

"They fear if they've had an argument about something else, a fence or weeds for example, the neighbour may decide to complain about the animals," Rans said. "There are many cities operating without bylaws at all. We're asking city to put its blessing on what is already happening."

Rans told the committee the request has been made in the past but always seems to be "lost in the shuffle" when it is referred to city staff for research or recommendations.

Orest Katolyk, the city's manager of bylaw enforcement, confirmed his department is looking at the implications of exempting recognized companion animal foster homes from the bylaw.

"(City) council has a new model of animal care and control," he said. "We're going through an RFP (request for proposals) now to choose an animal care and control provider and a review of the bylaw is a part of that."

He said a new model for fostering is something they are looking at. The review will include interviews with experts on the subject and a review of similar bylaws from other municipalities.

He expected the RFP to be completed in the spring. The bylaw review would follow.

"We're talking about fostering inside and outside, and we have to decide what is the number we're willing to accept. The not in my backyard factor will come up, some residents may not want 30 cats in their neighbour's yard, but there has to be a balance."

Also of concern to the AWAC is their governance structure. Rans has also asked the city to consider loosening the rules around who sits on the animal welfare committee.

She said they are constantly hamstrung because as many as four of their 18 seats are reserved for groups such as veterinarians and the London Humane Society, which have indicated they did not intend to ever nominate members to fill them.

"We want to have members at large so the work of the committee can get done," Rans said. "We are at 14 of 18 members right now. There is a whole set of people who are already representing rescue groups (and) they are already rescuing animals day in and day out. We're finding it difficult."



## Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary

Tuesday

It is with the heaviest of heart that I am writing this evening. I am so very sad to report that the last beaver captured from the Stanton Drain in London Ontario a couple of weeks ago, passed away over the weekend. He had been eating well at the sanctuary and the whole family had been seen snuggled up together sleeping, several times since he was reunited with the family.

In an effort to get him into his enclosure with the rest of the family quickly and reduce his stress we did a quick visual inspection (capture myopathy is always a concern with wild animals, so reducing stress is very important. ) He appeared to be somewhat less robust than the rest of the family (which was not a surprise given that they were well fed and housed meanwhile he was working hard to find food and accommodation over the couple of months while he avoided being trapped) but there were no outward signs that he was ill.

The post mortem examination done at Guelph University revealed that his inner stores of fat were seriously depleted which likely contributed to his death however, there was no clear cause of death found. The histopathology results from the necropsy will follow in a few weeks and may provide additional insight into his cause of death.

If you followed the story of the Stanton Drain beavers, you will know that Howard worked tirelessly over the past few months to capture the last beaver and had returned to London numerous times working in all kinds of weather and was working under very difficult conditions. We were all so happy when Howard captured him on February 13th and we were able to reunite the family. Jan and Brenda worked very hard to create a wonderful temporary home for the family and have provided them the best of care.

Running a sanctuary is not an easy job. Many of the animals that come to our facility are comprised in one way or another. Despite knowing the reality that some may not survive, our staff and volunteers at Aspen Valley work tirelessly to try to save every animal that is admitted to our facility. We value every animal's life and we are deeply saddened when one of those lives is lost.

On behalf of the board of directors of Aspen Valley, I wish to express my sincere condolences to Howard, Jan, Brenda and the volunteers who worked so hard to save the beaver. I hope that you can find some solace in the fact that when he died he was not out in the cold, alone, amongst the construction in Stanton Drain, he was with his family in a warm place and had excellent care.

The rest of the beaver family has been doing really well, the babies are growing quickly and soon, we will be able to release them back into the wild.

With a very heavy heart, Julie Woodyer, Chair

### **A comment posted by FOCA - Friends of Captive Animals:**

FOCA - Friends of Captive Animals Here in London we are well aware of the heroic efforts made to catch this last beaver. Howard made the long drive here several times, and whenever there was a sighting of this last beaver. A London volunteer was visiting the site daily to look for signs of the beaver and the construction workers were very kind to keep an eye out for him and they promptly reported whenever he was sighted.

This death shows that the best way to save wild animals is to protect their habitat and to share urban space with animals. Londoners tried to save this wetland habitat but were not successful, and so the beavers' only chance was to be relocated. Aspen Valley gave them that chance.

We are very glad that he did not die alone in the barren area that used to be his home but is now a construction site. His home and habitat were gone, his family was gone and his food supplies were gone. Instead of slowly dying by himself in the cold he was surrounded by the comfort of his family, which is the kind of death that we all wish for.

We are glad that he did not die alone and that he was reunited with his family who knew him and embraced him immediately. He did have several days to be comforted by them.

Let's remember as well, that when animal habitat and wild spaces are torn up for human use that countless animals such as this do die, often slowly, due to loss of shelter and food.

Thanks, Howard, and all the Aspen Valley volunteers who provide a second chance for so many animals. And, thanks for caring for these beavers who have shown so eloquently that they are a very real family.