



## Disaster Preparedness for Pets

In an emergency situation, it is important to not only prepare your family for evacuation, but also keep in mind the safety of your pets. Here is a list of tips to help you prepare for a disaster.

1. Make sure your pets are wearing current ID tags with your cell phone number in case they become lost or separated from you. It is also important to microchip your pets in case they are picked up by Animal Services or a vet clinic and they don't have their tags.
2. Include provisions for your pet in your evacuation kit, such as food, water, a harness and leash, and carrier or crate with bedding. Also bring their medications, vaccination records, and a first aid kit. If they eat canned food, don't forget a can opener as well.
3. Have a current photo and descriptions of your pets to help others identify them in case they get lost.
4. Find a safe place to bring them ahead of time. The Santa Barbara Humane Society, located at 5399 Overpass Road, will accept pets in the event of a county-wide emergency. There are also lists of pet friendly hotels online at [bringfido.com](http://bringfido.com).
5. If you evacuate, take your pets with you. Do not leave them behind – if it isn't safe for you, it is not safe for your pet. It is better to evacuate early rather than to wait for a mandatory evacuation order, because in some cases emergency officials will not allow you to bring or go back for your pets if the danger is too great.
6. If you decide not to evacuate, keep your pets inside with you. If they can smell smoke, they can become afraid and bolt.