

PROTECT YOUR PET DURING AN EMERGENCY

Pets are a part of our family so as a member of that family let's consider the following.

First, consider this: countless times people have been told to leave their homes for a "short time," only to find out they cannot return for days or weeks. Try to prevent this type of situation happening to you and your pet. TAKE YOUR PET WITH YOU. Better to be cautious during a disaster warning than leaving your pet with no one to take care of them.

Secondly, consider having a pet care buddy within the Woodtique Complex or somewhere nearby. If you cannot make it home during an emergency who will care for your pet? A pet buddy can not only care for your pet but can evacuate them for you as well. It is important to share your evacuation plan with your pet buddy by designating specific locations to meet up. One locally and one more distant.

Here are some other points to consider in regards to your pet:

1. Keep minimum 2 week supply worth of food in an airtight waterproof container. This is for one pet. If you have more than you need to plan accordingly.
2. Store minimum 2 week supply worth of water for your pet again depending on number of pets that you have.
3. Is your pet on any type of medication? If so you will need to keep an extra supply kept in an airtight waterproof container.
4. Speak with your pet's veterinarian to find out what you need to add to your first aid kit for your pet's first aid needs.
5. Place copies of your pet's documents in a clean plastic bag. Registration, vaccination, medical paperwork, etc. Collars can come off so consider microchipping if you haven't done so already.
6. Make sure you have a crate or pet carrier handy at all times.
7. You might also want to have on hand what you would need for your pet's sanitation purposes. Litter/litter box, newspapers, plastic trash bags, paper towels and regular household bleach. Do not use bleach that is scented or is color safe or has added cleaners.
8. **A picture of you and your pet together to document ownership if you get separated. This is one most people don't think of so take that pet/owner selfie today.**

9. In your pets go to bag you might also want to place some familiar items. A favorite toy, blanket, etc.

10. In regards to emergency shelters please be aware that they do not accept pets but emergency shelters that have pet shelters right next door to them is being considered and this pet owner hopes it goes beyond the thinking stage.

Hopefully most of you and your pets were warm and safe during this winter storm. I hope you were all prepared with enough food if you were not able to get out whether to drive or to walk. This is just a very small hint of what it would be like if you were not prepared. This is a good time to start thinking about you and yours pets safety during a major event.

You can find more information on the Lane County Emergency Preparedness website.

Take Care Everyone!

Lita