If you are like millions of animal owners nationwide, your pet is an important member of your household. The likelihood that you and your animals will survive an emergency such as a fire or flood, tornado or terrorist attack depends largely on emergency planning done today. Some of the things you can do to prepare for the unexpected, such as assembling an animal emergency supply kit and developing a pet care buddy system, are the same for any emergency. Whether you decide to stay put in an emergency or evacuate to a safer location, you will need to make plans in advance for your pets. Keep in mind that what’s best for you is typically what’s best for your animals.

If you must evacuate, take your pets with you if possible. However, if you are going to a public shelter, it is important to understand that animals may not be allowed inside. Plan in advance for shelter alternatives that will work for both you and your pets.

Make a back-up emergency plan in case you can’t care for your animals yourself. Develop a buddy system with neighbors, friends and relatives to make sure that someone is available to care for or evacuate your pets if you are unable to do so. Be prepared to improvise and use what you have on hand to make it on your own for at least three days, maybe longer.

Preparing for the unexpected makes sense. Get Ready Now.
Get Ready Now.

Preparing for Your Pet's Medical Emergencies

When you think about emergency preparedness for your pets, you might think about having a first aid kit ready, but what about preparation for your pet's medical emergencies? It's important to be prepared for your pet's medical needs, just as you would prepare for your own.

1. Create a Family Medical Plan
   - Include your pet's medical records, vaccination records, and any other relevant information.
   - Keep a list of emergency contact numbers, including your veterinarian's office and emergency veterinary hospitals.
   - Include a list of the medications your pet is currently taking and any instructions for administering them.

2. Have a First Aid Kit for Your Pet
   - Include basic first aid supplies such as a pet first aid kit, bandages, antiseptic wipes, and a thermometer.
   - Add any medications prescribed by your veterinarian.

3. Stay Informed
   - Research common pet emergencies in your area and how to respond to them.
   - Stay up to date on the latest pet health information and advice.

4. Practice
   - Practice your pet's medical emergency plan with your family and pets.
   - Review your plan regularly and make adjustments as necessary.

Pet First Aid Kit

Your pet's first aid kit should be easy to access and carry. It should include:

- Bandages
- Antiseptic wipes
- Thermometer
- Medications
- First aid guide

5. Be Prepared for a Storm or Natural Disaster
   - Include a supply of food and water for your pet in case of an emergency.
   - Check your pet's medical supplies and first aid kit and replace any items that have run low.

6. Know Your Pet's Medical History
   - Keep a record of your pet's medical history, including any allergies, medications, and existing health conditions.
   - Include contact information for your veterinarian and emergency veterinary hospitals.

7. Stay Calm
   - In the event of a medical emergency, stay calm and don't panic.
   - Follow your pet's medical emergency plan and contact your veterinarian as soon as possible.

Remember, the key to pet emergency preparedness is to be prepared and informed. By following these steps, you can ensure that your pet is ready for any medical emergency that may arise.