



Pet Owners Planning Checklist

If something happened to you, would someone know there is a pet in your home that needs to be cared for? If you couldn't get to your beloved pet in an emergency, is there someone that you've designated to retrieve and care for your pet during your absence? If not, some simple pre-planning and communication will ensure that your pet will be cared for in the event of any unforeseen emergency.

Pre-planning could be lifesaving for our beloved pets. You should communicate the location of the items in this checklist to your designated caregiver. (It also may be a good idea to designate a backup caregiver.) As with any planning, communication is key, so please use this list as a guide to help you consider the items and information that should be gathered and shared with your caregiver for these important members of our families.

Provide Information about your pet
• Name • Breed or type • Age
Provide necessary equipment/items and their location
• Kennel or carrier • Litter and litter box • Special toys, blankets or pads
Provide Care instruction
• Food location, amounts, preferences and feeding schedule • Medications, dosage and schedule • Veterinary contact information • Vaccination and medical records • Behavioral information / temperament details (around other animals, children or adults) • Daily rituals such as exercise, grooming etc. • Sleep habits
Provide funds to help care for your pet
If you can, it may be a good idea to set aside funds in advance for the person(s) who commits to taking care of your pet.

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If it's a short-term situation, you may consider reimbursing your caregiver for any expenses they've incurred. To prepare for a longer-term situation, you may want to create a specific funding option that makes sense for you.

Consider;

- A pre-funded bank account
- A Life insurance policy
- A will or trust with pet care provisions

In creating any pre-funded plans, consider the age of your pet, and if the pet has any special needs.

Helpful Emergency tips to help keep your pets safe

- Place a pet rescue window decal or sticker near your front door. This will alert first responders (EMT, Fire or police) that there is a pet in the home that they might have to watch out for or rescue.
- Assemble an emergency kit so it is easily accessible in the event you and your family and pets must quickly evacuate your home. (Include necessary items from the above list.)
- In the event such as a fire, leave windows and doors open in the event you cannot locate your pet, so they can escape on their own.
- Make sure your pet is properly identifiable (chip or collar with a tag)

Remember when considering a caregiver for your pet (temporary or long-term) consider who has the capacity, lifestyle and means to care for your beloved animal.