

Be Prepared in an Emergency

It is very **important** to be prepared in an emergency situation, particularly during bushfire season.

We should be ready to evacuate our pets at a moment's notice!

1. **Have carry boxes and leads readily accessible.** Carry boxes should be large enough so that your pet can be comfortable in them for up to a couple of days.
2. **Get your pets used to travelling in their carry box.** Try feeding your cat inside its box so that it doesn't always associate the carry box with an unpleasant experience – many cats know that being put in a carry box means a trip to the vet!
3. **Make sure your pets wear their collar and tags at all times** and have them microchipped. For most animals in NSW a microchip is a legal requirement.
4. **Always have a secondary contact number on the ID tag** or microchip record. If you have to evacuate no one will be able to contact your home number.
5. **Have an emergency supply kit ready for your pets:**
 - A few days supply of food and water (don't forget the can opener!)
 - Food and water bowls
 - Cat litter and litter tray
 - Your pets' medications, blankets and towels
6. **Make sure that you have current photos of your pets** and detailed descriptions that you can distribute if they do get lost.
7. **If you have to evacuate your home always try and take your pets with you.** Turning your pets loose isn't safe.
8. **You should always plan in advance** where you and your pets could go if you have to evacuate. If you plan to stay with friends and family ask in advance if it's OK to bring your pet. Similarly with local motels etc.
9. **If your pet should become lost during an emergency** contact the RSPCA for information on how to find your pet.

We hope this information helps to keep your pets safe during an emergency situation. We encourage you to pass this onto family and friends.

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