

# Disaster Preparedness for Your Rabbit

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# Introduction

- Forward-looking plans are needed to evacuate rabbits quickly and safely
- Early detection is key
  - NOAA Weather Radio
  - FEMA App
- Be prepared!

# Disaster Plan

- Identify Scenarios
- Recruit Alternate Caregivers
- Create Evacuation Kit
- Plan Evacuation Route
- Practice

# Identify Disaster Scenarios

- Immediate Evacuation
  - Fire, earthquake, gas leak
- Shelter in Place
  - Severe thunderstorm, tornado, blizzard, lose electricity
- Evacuate
  - Flooding, wildfire, hurricane, cyclone, volcanic eruption, chemical spill
- Owner Illness or Death

# Recruit Alternate Caregivers



- Identify individual(s) to provide care for your rabbits – all stages of life and illness
- Buddy up – offer to be a contact for your friends
- Help first responders – document your alternate caregivers in a wallet ID card

# Create An Evacuation Kit (aka Go Bag)

- One carrier per rabbit or group of rabbits
  - Close to animal
  - Labeled with owner name and rabbit information
- Portable living space, litterbox, litter, food and water crocks - separate from primary living space
- Minimum one week of pelleted food and hay per rabbit
- One week of water per rabbit
- Care instructions

# Create An Evacuation Kit (aka Go Bag)

- Medication and medical records (waterproof bag)
- First aid kit
  - Gauze, vet wrap, SSD, scissors, nail trimmers, syringes critical care
  - Depending upon care acuity required – IV fluids, GI motility drugs
- Toys and treats for comfort
- Create a checklist 😊

# Disaster: Shelter in Place



- Identify safe zone(s) – no windows, flying debris
- Choose easy to clean areas
- Fresh water
  - Fill sinks and bath tubs
  - Fill empty containers
- Emergency supplies and plan

# Emergency Supplies and Plan

- Frozen water bottles to use as evaporative coolers
- Flashlights, batteries
- Battery operated fans (clip to living space)
- Candles
- Hand Sanitizer
- Cash, ATMs could be down
- For areas prone to disasters, buy a generator before the disaster and know how to use it

# Disaster: Plan Evacuation Route

- In advance, acquaint yourself with possible services in your area
  - Not all shelters allow pets
  - Friends, volunteers (aka buddies), relatives, boarding facilities, veterinarians
- Identify travel route(s) and hotels that allow pets
- Create a list of resources with phone numbers

# Disaster: Plan Evacuation Route

- What if you are not at home?!!
  - Arrange for a trusted neighbor to gather your rabbits and meet you at a pre-designated place
- Don't wait for mandatory evacuation orders!

# Car Travel Safety: Options for Safest Animal Carrier Position

- Safest:
  - Backseat behind passenger drivers side seat (aka floor carrier)
- Next safest:
  - Backseat on top of floor carrier
- Less safe:
  - Passenger back set
- Least safe:
  - Passenger front seat
- Applying seatbelt to carrier/strap can create shear forces which jettison animals 😞

# Assist First Responders



- Place evacuation stickers at all major entrances
- List all species
- In case you are not home: include veterinary clinic information
- If you have already evacuated, write EVACUATED on the stickers

# Time-Critical Evacuation Considerations

- Get creative, carriers might not be accessible
- Use an evacsac
- Use a pillowcase



# Owner Illness or Death



- Make plans while you are healthy
- For acute situations, choose someone close to your home
- Inform family and friends of your wishes
- If state law allows, create an animal trust

# Practice Evacuations



- Be certain your rabbit is accustomed to being picked up and handled
- Never try to catch a rabbit on the move!
- Builds confidence
- Reduces stress
- Ensures rabbits are calm when placed into carriers

# Are you a Rescue Group?

## Help to Spread the News Continually!

- March: Spring Safety Awareness
- May: Wildfire Safety Awareness
- June: Pet Safety, Summer Safety Awareness
- September: National Preparedness Month
- October: Fire Prevention Awareness
- December: Winter Safety Awareness

# Conclusion

- Any disaster is extremely stressful to human family members, and animal family members
- Having a well documented and practiced disaster preparedness plan is the key to success to evacuate ALL family members

# Resources

- Disaster Preparedness (Patricia Brant and June Booth):  
<https://rabbit.org/disaster-preparedness-for-your-rabbit-dont-think-it-wont-happen-to-you/>
- [www.ready.gov/](http://www.ready.gov/)
- Ease into disaster preparedness:  
<http://do1thing.com/individuals>
- Disaster Preparedness Kit: [m.humanesociety.org/issues/animal\\_rescue/tips/pet\\_disaster\\_preparedness\\_kit.html](http://m.humanesociety.org/issues/animal_rescue/tips/pet_disaster_preparedness_kit.html)
- Disaster Checklist: [redrover.org/wp-content/uploads/legacy/Responders/RR\\_disaster\\_checklist\\_0514.pdf/](http://redrover.org/wp-content/uploads/legacy/Responders/RR_disaster_checklist_0514.pdf/)

# Resources

- Pet Friendly Hotels:  
[www.cdc.gov/features/petsanddisasters/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/features/petsanddisasters/index.html)
- Emergency Rescue Labels with Rabbits:  
[www.jefferspet.com/products/emergency-pet-rescue-labels](http://www.jefferspet.com/products/emergency-pet-rescue-labels)
- Wallet ID Card: docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/b88735\_46b67cf279c2429dadd87b61efe69491.pdf
- Evacsacs: [www.evacpet.com](http://www.evacpet.com)