

Protecting Your Pet from Disaster in an Emergency

To All Pet Owners:

On September 19, 2003, Shinjuku City signed an agreement with the Shinjuku Branch of the Tokyo Veterinary Medical Association on rescue activities to save animals during a disaster.

With consideration for the safety of people and their pets, Shinjuku City is also participating in cooperative discussions with related groups to prepare for disasters.

It is a good idea to discuss such matters and be prepared so that your family and pets can evacuate safely in case disaster strikes.



Shinjuku Public Health Center
Security Affairs Division
Shinjuku Branch, Tokyo Veterinary Medical Association

When a Disaster Strikes—Secure the Safety of Your Family

When a disaster strikes, it is crucial to protect the lives of people and their pets. Shinjuku City recommends that you use such countermeasures as making your home earthquake-resistant and reinforcing pieces of furniture with braces so that they do not topple over.

If a major fire breaks out, please go to a regional evacuation site. Please also discuss with your family what to do if family members become separated during a disaster, such as deciding on several places where you can meet and confirming how to use NTT Disaster Emergency Message Dial 171 to check on each other's safety.

Evacuation Sites

If your home is damaged or destroyed by fire or collapses as a result of an earthquake or other disaster, making it unsafe to live in, an evacuation site can serve as a temporary home for you and your pets. The local elementary or junior high school is typically designated as an evacuation site. Please check the location in advance. If your pet is injured, it may need to receive treatment at a veterinary hospital, so please also check the location of veterinary hospitals and clinics in your neighborhood. In addition, it will likely become necessary to ask friends or relatives to take care of your pets temporarily.



Select Evacuation Routes from Your Home and Place of Employment

You never know when a disaster will strike, so think of several evacuation routes to the evacuation site nearest to your home and place of employment or school.

Note: The Shinjuku City Evacuation Site Map is available at the Security Affairs Division, Shinjuku Municipal Disaster Prevention Center, and local branch offices.

Disaster Prevention Goods for Pets

Evacuation sites are set up to take care of people, so preparations for pets are basically the responsibility of the pet owner. With that in mind, prepare the following supplies:

- 1 Pet food and water (enough for about five days)
- 2 Pet toilet supplies (such as pet sheets for your dog and sandbox sand for your cat)
- 3 Regular medications for your pets, if any
- 4 Pet cage, leash, and harness for use at evacuation sites (needed for cats as well)
- 5 Dog license, rabies vaccination certificate (in the case of a dog), or the pet identification tag
- 6 Several photographs of your pet (handy if it becomes necessary to search for your pet)

Discipline

Let's practice common courtesy at evacuation sites so that everyone will feel comfortable. If pets are well disciplined, the pet owners and other at the site will feel at ease. Let's be aware of the following points on a regular basis and discipline pets.

Dogs—Train your dog to:

- Listen to your commands and not bark unnecessarily
- Be relaxed around people and other animals
- Get into his/her cage when necessary
- Go to the toilet in a designated place

Cats—Train your cat to:

- Be relaxed around people and other animals
- Get into his/her cage when necessary
- Go to the toilet in a designated place



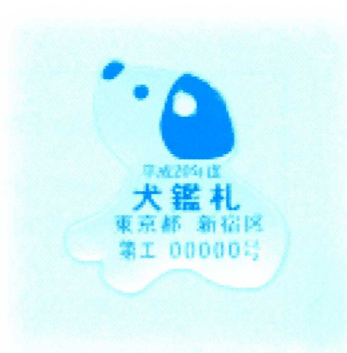
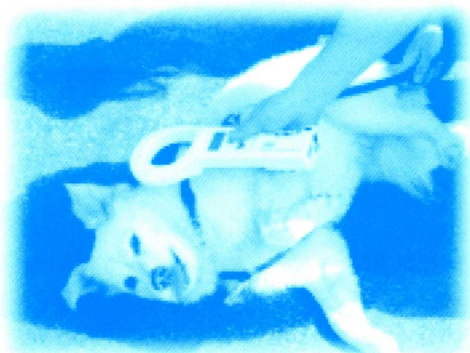
In the Case of Other Animals

Reptiles, amphibians, and other such pets are not accepted at evacuation sites. Owners of such exotic animals should find someone or somewhere that will take care of their pets in an emergency.

Stress is unavoidable in everyday life at evacuation sites, both for people and for pets. There have been cases of pets that had to leave the evacuation site because they were afraid of their neighbors, were not able to eat or go to the toilet properly, and barked excessively or bit people. There will be all kinds of people at the evacuation site—those who like animals, those who do not, and those with allergies. It is up to pet owners to train their pets so that people will like them and feel at ease.

Identifying Lost Pets If a disaster strikes, pet owners may have to separate and may be unable to take refuge at the same evacuation site. Individual identification markers are therefore important when searching for pets.

Methods of individual identification include dog licenses (in the case of dogs), identification tags, collars, ribbons, and microchips. Microchips are the most effective since a microchip will always remain in your pet. A microchip is injected under the skin at the nape of the neck with a special needle. It can be used for dogs and cats, of course, and for other animals as well. Once attached, your pet can be identified for its lifetime.



Evacuation Supplies to Prepare in Advance

Emergency Backpack

Place items you will need in the event of an evacuation in a backpack and leave it in a handy place that you can get to easily before you go, such as by the bed.

The backpack should contain food, drinking water, a portable radio, a flashlight, spare batteries, socks, working gloves, towels, regular medicine, sanitary napkins, tissue, plastic bags, spare eyeglasses/contact lenses, a recharging unit for your mobile phone, matches or a lighter and athletic shoes.

While many other items may come to mind, it is wise to keep your belongings to a minimum, or the pack may become too heavy to carry when you evacuate. Keep the weight of your emergency backpack down to about six to eight kilograms for an adult.



Emergency Supplies

- Enough food to sustain life after a disaster for about five days per person
- Prepare for a blackout → Flashlight, candles, matches, lighter, and spare batteries
- Prepare for a gas shortage → Portable gas stove and solid fuel
- Prepare for a water shortage → About three liters of drinking water per person per day
- To collect information → Portable radio, TV

It is a good idea to prepare the abovementioned supplies in advance.



Disaster Preparedness

Items to keep at hand in case a fire breaks out or if your home collapses after a disaster:

- In case of fire
Fire extinguisher, triangular fire bucket, reserve supply of bath water, etc.
- In case of evacuation or rescue activities
Escape rope and ladder, shovel, saw, waterproof sheet, etc.



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