

PROTECTING YOUR PET DURING AN EMERGENCY

The Derbyshire Local Resilience Forum would like to encourage residents to plan for the needs of their pets during a major emergency. Emergencies can affect any community causing the evacuation of areas to protect life and the environment eg flooding, fire, industrial accident, terrorism etc. Local authorities have a duty to provide emergency accommodation for those evacuated but not all of the identified centres can also accommodate pets.

Your pet or pets are an important part of your family and need to be considered during an emergency just as much as yourself, your partner, children or relatives. This leaflet therefore suggests some pre-planning you can do in order to protect them.

IDENTIFICATION AND PROOF OF OWNERSHIP

Should you become separated from your pet it would be wise to invest in permanent identification of your pet(s). The best way to do this is to have them micro-chipped. This can be done at any veterinary surgery or by other qualified personnel. Make sure that your contact details are kept up to date and keep a record of the micro-chip number with your evacuation kit (see below).

Other ways of establishing proof of ownership is a collar tag, tattoos or to take photographs of you with your pet(s) and ask other members of your family or trusted friends in another part of the country to hold copies for you. This ensures that you can retrieve them should your copies be lost in an emergency.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION KIT

If you are to be evacuated from your residence, take your pet(s) with you, you do not know how long you will be away from your home.

Prepare an “emergency evacuation kit” for your pet(s). Think about the basic things you would need to take care of your pet(s) for a few days, check “use by dates” regularly eg

- Food, bowl, spoon plus can opener (if necessary)
- Water and bowl
- Medicines and first aid kit (in sealed container)
- Collar, muzzle (even the gentlest animals can become difficult when distressed) and lead
- Pet carrier(s)
- Micro-chip number (in a sealed bag)
- Pet insurance information (in sealed bag)
- Vaccination records (in a sealed bag)
- Veterinary contact details (in a sealed bag)
- Pet litter
- “Pooper scooper” and plastic bags
- Hand sanitizer/household bleach
- Paper towels
- Toys (familiar items may help reduce stress to your pet(s)).

If you are evacuated but your pet(s) cannot be accommodated with you, please try and identify family, friends or boarding kennels that could be used to temporarily house your pet(s).

Finally, remember to keep your plans updated