



Protect your Animals in an Emergency

Your Assistance/Guide Dog

Same as you do with your family's Emergency Survival Kit, think first about the basics for your Assistance/Guide Dog – food, water and warmth.

Think about having two Emergency Survival Kits

Home Kit – contains everything you may need to stay at home for up to three days.

Getaway Kit – more portable and lightweight for when you need to leave quickly.

Make sure your kits are easy to grab in a hurry, and that everyone in the house knows where they are, including a neighbour.

Check your kits from time to time for expiry dates to ensure supplies stay fresh – particularly food, water and medicine items. Replace water every six months for freshness.

If where you are isn't safe for you, it isn't safe for your animals.

Prepare for your Animals – checklist

Emergency Survival Items

- Food:** Store at least five days of non-perishable pet food (canned or dried) in an airtight or waterproof container – remember the can opener! And try to keep their food the same as what you normally feed them to avoid possible stomach upsets.
- Water:** Store at least five days of water, additional to your family needs. Animals can drink more water than usual when stressed.
- Medicines:** Store any extra medical supplies and special dietary needs or supplements in a waterproof container.
- Veterinary/medical records:** Store copies of any medical and vaccination records in a waterproof container. Include your vet's name and phone number.
- First Aid Kit:** In addition to your family needs, store extra cotton bandage rolls and tape, scissors, tweezers and latex gloves. Talk to your vet about any specific first aid requirements, like antibiotic ointment and saline solution (separate to your family's).
- Blanket/bedding:** Familiar items, like favourite blanket or toy can help reduce stress for your Assistance/Guide Dog.
- Sanitation:** Include pet litter and litter box and any other useful items, like newspapers, paper towels, poo bags, gloves and household bleach (to dilute).



See full First Aid Kit
checklist [here](#).



Protect your Assistance/Guide Dog in an Emergency

Identification

- Registered and microchipped:** Ensure your Assistance/Guide Dog is wearing its licence tag and disc with its Disability Assist Number at all times, and that your personal details are up to date on relevant microchip databases, including next of kin or someone outside of your household. In addition make sure your dog has a Civil Defence disability assist ID tag (a round brass tag with the Civil Defence logo on it). This will support the easy identification of your dog in an emergency. See <https://www.civildefence.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/publications/Fact-Sheet-on-Disability-Assist-Dogs-in-Emergencies-January-2014.pdf> for more information.
- Photograph:** Store a current photograph of your Assistance/Guide Dog in a waterproof container, including notes on any distinguishing features, name, sex, age, colour and breed. Also include a photograph of you and your Assistance/Guide Dog together to help prove ownership if you get separated.
- Save information online:** For easy access from wherever you are, save all your important information – microchip, photographs, medical, veterinary and contact details – online e.g. Dropbox, mobile phone or web/gmail.

Equipment

- Lead/harness/muzzle:** For control in the event that they become stressed and try to escape in an emergency situation. Make sure the device is sturdy and has an ID tag attached. Dogs may need to be muzzled. Even if your Assistance/Guide Dog is friendly, emergency personnel may refuse to handle them if they're not restrained.
- Passport and ID:** Make sure you have your Assistance/Guide Dog ID on you at all times. Also consider getting another form of ID from your certifying organisation, such as a letter addressed to you, detailing your relationship with your Assistance/Guide Dog.

Safe Shelter Places

You will not be separated from your Assistance/Guide dog.

Trained Assistance/Guide Dogs are accepted in any public place. This includes welfare centres and temporary housing during emergencies. Please ensure you use these services if they're available.

If you need to evacuate, take your Assistance/Guide Dog with you. If it's not safe for you to stay, it's not safe for your dog or those who may try and rescue it. And while Assistance/Guide Dogs are permitted in public emergency shelters, you still need to plan for a Safe House in case you get separated or need to be hospitalised.

- Safe House:** Plan for a family member or friend – who has cared for your Assistance/Guide Dog in the past – to care for it if you can't.
- Dog carer details:** Put the full name, address and phone number of the person caring for your Assistance/Guide dog in a waterproof container inside your Emergency Survival Kit. Your household should also know this information and have it saved as well.
- Emergency Survival Kit locations:** Let the person caring for your Assistance/Guide dog – and a neighbour – know the location of your Home and Getaway Kits. In the event you're not home when a disaster strikes, they can feed and attend to your dog in the interim.
- House access:** Let the person caring for your Assistance/Guide dog – and a neighbour – know where the spare house key is located. Or give them their own key in the event your hiding place is destroyed in an emergency.
- Post-emergency communications:** Have a plan to communicate with the person caring for your Assistance/Guide dog after the emergency event.

