



# NATCAT'S DISASTER TIPS FOR CATS

**In case of disaster, how prepared are you to care for your cat? It is a scenario none of us want to think about, but preparing now could save your cat's life. To know what emergency supplies to keep on hand, use this checklist from NATCAT.<sup>1</sup>**

## Food

Maintain a two-week supply of your cat's normal brand of food. Dry food should be stored in an airtight container, rotated no less than every three months. Wet food should be in 3-ounce cans to avoid wasting uneaten portions if you lose access to refrigeration. And remember the supplies you need to serve the food, including a can opener for wet food not in a pop-top can, dish, and spoon or scoop specifically for food.

## Water

Maintain a two-week supply of water, stored in a cool, dry place and rotated no less than every two months. And remember a bowl specifically for water.

## Hygiene

Maintain a two-week supply of scoopable litter. Also keep a small litterbox or disposable litter trays such as aluminum roasting pans, a scoop specifically for litter, plastic bags for proper disposal, dish soap to clean the food and water dishes and litter supplies, and paper towels to dry them off.

## Identification

Make sure your cat always wears a comfortable breakaway collar and proper identification. Also keep a spare collar and ID tag featuring your address and phone number. NATCAT additionally encourages all pet owners to microchip their cat.

## Transit

Keep a foldable crate for transportation (or if necessary, protection from fallen walls or windows). Make sure it is large enough for your cat's food and water dishes, litterbox and perhaps a few toys. Also keep a comfortable harness and leash to safely take your cat out of the crate for exercise. In case your cat gets scared during the emergency, the ASPCA suggests including a blanket with your supplies to pick him or her up.

## First Aid

Make sure you own a first aid kit for cats containing these basics:

- One 3" x 5" conforming bandage
- One package of 4" x 4" absorbent gauze pads
- One 3" x 3' absorbent gauze pad
- One box of cotton swabs
- One package of antiseptic wipes
- One tube of emollient cream
- One pair of tweezers
- One pair of scissors
- One instant cold pack
- Five pairs of latex disposable gloves

If your cat takes long-term medication, maintain a two-week supply, stored in a waterproof container and rotated regularly. Keep your cat's medical records with the medication. NATCAT also recommends choosing a veterinarian with a disaster plan.

## Photographs

Keep recent photos of your cat along with photos of the both of you to prove guardianship if necessary.

<sup>1</sup> Based on information from:  
*Disaster Tips: For Cats*. (2009). United Animal Nations.  
*Disaster Preparedness*. (2009). ASPCA.



*As a shelter whose primary mission is dedicated to the protection and welfare of cats, NATCAT provides ongoing information to help you ensure a safe, sound home for your entire feline-friendly family. Have questions? Call NATCAT today.*

## NATIONAL CAT PROTECTION SOCIETY

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