Emergency Animal Preparedness Plan

RSPCA
for all creatures great & small

The following are simple but important steps you can take to ensure your animal's health and safety in the case of a personal emergency (e.g., you are hospitalised for COVID-19).

Developing your plan:
Organise an emergency contact or two. Ideally, these will be local — neighbours if possible — who can be quickly contacted and come to help provide access to your home and animal(s). If you have a trusted person who is not local but can make decisions on your behalf, ensure that they are connected with someone local who will be able to help with any immediate needs (e.g., picking up a key to your home or dropping off animal food).

To make it as easy as possible for someone else to care for your animal(s) if it becomes necessary complete this checklist to prepare:

• Identify a trusted friend or neighbour to care for your pet(s) if members of your household cannot care for your pets (e.g. if they become ill or are hospitalised), compile their contact info and keep it accessible.

• Prepare a minimum of two weeks' supply of pet food, medications, and pet care supplies (e.g., cat litter, carrier, enrichment toys, etc.) — have as much of this packed and ready as possible.

• Check that your pet is up to date with their vaccinations, in case it is necessary for your pet to go to a boarding facility or to someone else's home to be cared for. Also make sure parasite control (e.g., flea and worm control) is up to date.

• Include details of your pet's vaccination records, health concerns, medications, and veterinarian contact information. All medications and instructions should be documented (include dosages, method of administration, and how often to give the medication). Ideally, include a prescription for any medication just in case.

• Include detailed care instructions, e.g., your animal's diet, exercise routines, any important behavioural notes and any other specific care requirements

• Ensure your animal's collar ID tag and microchip information is up to date. Make sure your animal's microchip is registered; there are a number of animal microchip registries in Australia with which you can register an existing microchip, links to all of these can be found at Pet Address (petaddress.com.au). For registered chips, information can be found at Pet Address, which will redirect you to the database that lists your animal's microchip number, so that you may contact them directly.

• Print and fill out "Animals Inside cards" and put on your doors/windows to alert first responders that you have animal(s) in your home needing assistance in case of emergency.

• Give the Emergency Animal Authorisation form to your emergency contact. This form authorises them to access your home to care for your animal and make decisions for your animal on your behalf (for example, if your animal needs veterinary care).

Use the information collected in the steps above to fill out the template below for all your animals. Give this information to your emergency contact(s) and have it easily accessible in your home. All members of your family/household should know where to locate this form.

Based on a plan produced by Best Friends Animal Society with their permission.

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Owner Details

Owner 1:

Owner 2 (optional):

Location of animal supplies
(include any back up supplies as applicable)

Important Phone Numbers

Veterinarian:

Emergency Veterinarian:

Pet insurance:

Local emergency contact(s):

People who can help:

Animal Details

Name:

Responds to:

Species:

Breed:

Sex: Male / Female (desexed / non-desexed)

Date of birth (or approximate age):

Colour (markings/unique features):

Identification info (Collar, Microchip, etc.):

Diet and feeding details:

Medication (Y/N)
Dosage/instructions:

Health/behavioural concerns

Special instructions/personality info:

Animal Insurance Details

Company:

Policy number:

Level of cover:

Excess:

Policy expires:

[Add image of animal]

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