

Planning to safeguard your animal's care and welfare in case of emergency

The following are simple but important steps you can take to ensure your animal's health and safety in case of an emergency in which someone else needs to care for your animals (e.g., you are hospitalised or stuck somewhere and unable to get home).

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 your household members become ill, are hospitalised, or are stuck somewhere and unable to get home), 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 in case it is necessary for your pet to go somewhere else to be cared for.
- 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.
- Prepare and share with your emergency contact(s) the following information: details of your pet's vaccination records, pet insurance details (where applicable), health concerns, medications, and veterinarian contact information (and any other important 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.
- Fill out and give the [Emergency Animal Authorisation form](#) to your emergency contact(s). This form helps to authorise 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.

Owner Details

Important Phone Numbers

Owner 1:

Veterinarian:

Owner 2 (if applicable):

Emergency Veterinarian:

Pet insurance:

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

Local emergency contact(s):

People who can help:

Animal Details

Name:

Diet and feeding details:

Responds to:

Species:

Medication (Y/N)

Breed:

Dosage/instructions:

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

Date of birth (or approximate age):

Health/behavioural concerns

Colour (markings/unique features):

Special instructions/personality info:

Identification info (Collar, Microchip, etc.):

Animal Insurance Details

Company:

Policy number:

Level of cover:

Excess:

Policy expires:

[Add image of animal]