It pays to have a disaster plan in place for you and your family — including your pets. You never know what to expect or how long an emergency will last. Check out these veterinarian-approved tips to help ensure your dog’s safety.

- Make sure each dog wears an ID tag with your contact info
- Take a photo of each dog, with identifiable markings clearly visible
- For each pet, pack 3+ days of food and water in waterproof containers
- Have crates, carriers, collars, harnesses and leashes ready to go
- Refill your pet medications
- Pack pet meds, medical records, adoption agreements, and registrations in waterproof containers
- Pack a first aid kit — for people and pets — with scissors, bandage material, isopropyl alcohol, and antibiotic ointment
- If possible, make sure your pet is microchipped and registered
- To help keep your dog content, pack a few special toys and blankets or bedding

If you may have to evacuate, map out your evacuation plan as early as possible. And make sure it includes pet-friendly shelter locations.