



# News Release

Shelby County Office of Preparedness



Dale Lane, Director

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**For Immediate Release**

**June 8, 2018**

## June is Pet Preparedness Month!

“During a disaster, your family may be forced to evacuate or shelter-in-place with little notice,” said Dale Lane, Director Shelby County Office of Preparedness. “With the exception of documented service animals, pets are not allowed in public shelters and it is not recommended they be left at home during an emergency. Advanced planning is key to their survival. During **June, Pet Preparedness Month**, plan ahead to ensure your furry family members survives the disaster. Be pet prepared when disaster strikes!”

### Pet Preparedness Tips:

- **Pet Go Kit:** Include food, treats, water, pet dish, medications, first-aid kit, leash, collar, documents, carrier, sanitation items (newspapers, plastic bags, bleach), blankets, toys, and photo.
- **Records:** Compile digital and paper records to include medical information, medications, feeding schedules, and vet contact information. Include a “selfie” of you and your pets.
- **Identification:** Ensure pets have a collar ID tag and a permanent ID (microchip). Keep microchip registration current. Include your phone number and the phone number of an out of town relative on your pet’s ID tag and microchip registration.
- **Evacuation:** Don’t leave pets behind! Stay together! Plan for and anticipate safe evacuation locations. Create a list of pet-friendly hotels, pet boarding locations, and friends who live outside of Shelby County. Practice evacuating in your car with your pets.
- **Shelter-in-Place:** Keep extra pet food, water, and medications at home in case you must shelter-in-place.
- **Pet Care Team:** Enlist trusted neighbors, relatives or friends to care for your pets if you cannot make it home. Share feeding and medication instructions with your pet care team.
- **Pet Alert Sticker:** Place a “pets inside” sticker on a window or door for first responders in case of emergency. Ensure it is updated as needed.
- **Never leave pets alone in a hot vehicle.**
- **Don’t allow pets to roam loose.** They can become disoriented and frightened.



### Resources:

- FEMA: [www.ready.gov/pets](http://www.ready.gov/pets)
- View the FEMA pet preparedness video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aUbSF\\_S20bE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aUbSF_S20bE)
- Humane Society of Memphis and Shelby County: [www.memphishumane.org](http://www.memphishumane.org)

**End Release**