



Planning for your pets' care in an emergency

Our pets are so close to our hearts, and our love for them and devotion to them is endless. It can be difficult to think about the day when they will no longer be with us. But what if something happens to us first, and we're not around to take care of them?

In the event that something happens to you, your pets will need immediate care and love. So, we've put together the following checklist to help you plan for your pets' care in case of an emergency.

Arrange an emergency caregiver

- Set up an emergency caregiver who can be available at a moment's notice.
- Give your emergency caregiver detailed notes on feeding instructions, veterinary contact information and where to find a key to your house.
- Let your friends and family know how many pets you have and who to contact in case of an emergency.

Set up a permanent caregiver

- To ensure long-term care for your pets, name a permanent caregiver. Choose someone who can provide a good home for your pets, and be sure ask that person first.
- If you don't have a permanent caregiver in mind, write down detailed instructions about how your emergency caregiver should find a home for your animals. If you adopted your pets from an animal welfare organization, check the adoption agreement for clauses regarding their care.
- Remember to include backup options for your emergency and long-term caregivers.

Make provisions for your pets in your will or trust

- Include authorization of funds for the care of your pets in your estate planning.
- Consider setting up a trustee who can oversee the care of your animals.
- Consult with a legal expert who can help you finalize the details of your will or trust.