



WORLD  
**ANIMAL**  
PROTECTION

# Protect your pet in a disaster

## Disaster Pack for Birds

Just as you do with your family's Disaster Survival Kit, think first about the basics for your bird – **food, water and warmth.**

### Prepare two Disaster Survival Kits for your bird –

1. One kit for if you need to stay at home with your bird for up to three days.
2. The other, a more portable lightweight version (Evacuation Kit) for when you need to leave with your bird quickly.

**Decide in advance whether you will take your bird with you, so that if disaster strikes you can avoid risk late retrieval from your home.**

Place these kits somewhere easy to get to in a hurry, and make sure everyone in the house knows where they are kept.

Regularly re-check these kits for expiry dates to ensure supplies stay fresh – particularly the food, water and medicine items. Water should be replaced every six months to ensure freshness.



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## Prepare for your Bird – Checklist

### Emergency Survival Items:

- **Food:** Store at least three days' worth of non-perishable bird food in an airtight, waterproof container.
- **Water:** Store at least three days' worth of water for your bird, in addition to the water you need for yourself. Plus you will need extra water to clean up after your bird.
- **Medicines:** Store any extra supply of medicines your bird needs in a waterproof container, as well as any special dietary needs or supplements.
- **Veterinary/Medical Records:** Store copies of any medical records in a watertight container including your vet's name and telephone number (in case you have to board your bird or place them in foster care).
- **First Aid Kit:** Make up a first aid kit for your bird or add to your household's (human) first aid kit. Make sure you talk to your vet about any other requirements for your bird.  
▶ [Click here for a full First Aid Kit for Pets](#)
- **Blanket/Bedding:** A cover to put over the cage, or toys inside the cage, can help reduce stress for your bird.
- **Sanitation:** Include any pet litter or other useful items like newspaper, paper towels and household bleach (to dilute) to clean out the cage.

### Identification:

- **Photograph:** Store a current photograph of your bird in a waterproof container, including notes on: distinguishing features, name, sex, colour and breed. Also include a photograph of you and your bird together as this helps prove they are yours if you become separated.
- **Back up:** As a back up, save medical and veterinary details, key contact details and all photographs electronically to places such as 'Dropbox', your mobile phone or a folder in your Webmail (eg Gmail). This means you can still access these vital details if you are cut off from returning to your home.

### Equipment:

- **Gloves:** Plus any other sturdy kind of equipment that you think will help handle and control your bird, particularly in a stressful situation. Think strong and reliable as your bird may panic and try to escape.
- **Cages or Carrier:** This is to transport your bird safely and ensure they cannot escape. Remember anything cardboard/paper based (ie pet carrier box) will disintegrate.

A cage/carrier should be large enough for your bird to stand comfortably and turn around and have adequate ventilation. Your bird may have to stay in the cage/carrier for days so include any favourite toys to reduce stress levels.

Make sure your bird's cage/carrier includes a tag that clearly states their name, your name, phone number and your address. Include a back-up tag in your bird's Disaster Survival Kit.



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## Safe Shelter Places

It is vital to plan whether you will take your bird with you in a disaster, and how you will keep it safe and secure. This avoids the risky late retrieval of your bird from your home. Birds are usually not permitted in evacuation centres, so you need to plan and agree on a 'Safe House' or an animal shelter that you and your bird (or just your bird) can go to:

- **A Safe House:** Plan and agree with a family member or friend (who doesn't live with you and who has cared for your bird in the past) if they will care for your bird for any length of time, in case of a disaster.
- **Place their full name, address and telephone number in your Disaster Survival Kit in a waterproof container.** All adults and children in your household should know these primary and alternative contacts (names/addresses/contact numbers) or always carry this information with them.
- **Show them and a neighbour where your Disaster Survival Kits are kept** in case you are not at home when disaster strikes and you are cut off from returning to your bird. This means your neighbour can feed and attend to your bird in the interim.
- **Have a plan to communicate with your contact after the event.** Arrange a meeting place in a safe area so you can be reunited with your bird.

○ **A Safe Shelter:** Make a list of contact information and addresses of potential 'pet friendly' shelters (motels that allow pets or local vet centres). Your local council may be able to assist you with this. Keep a list on you at all times and a copy in each of your Disaster Survival Kits.

At most locations you will need to provide veterinary records before boarding pets.

Always call ahead for a reservation as soon as you think you might have to evacuate from home.

## Practise your plan

To ensure you and your bird can move fast and feel secure if you need to shelter in place in a disaster, you should practise getting your bird into your safe place in the house (where your disaster survival kits are kept).

Remember to practise your plan regularly so that your bird becomes used to entering and travelling calmly in their cage/carrier.

Try doing practise runs in the dark. This will ensure you can navigate quicker if a disaster strikes during the night or if there is a power cut.

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