

# Protect your pet in a bushfire



Protect your cat  
or dog by knowing  
the three Ps: **Plan.**  
**Prepare. Practice.**







## Step 1: Plan ahead to protect your cat or dog

During the warmer months, bushfires can occur at any time, and without a plan you could make panicked decisions that threaten the safety of you, your pet and your family.

Pets are part of your family and should never be abandoned in a bushfire unless it is impossible to evacuate them. By making a Pet Disaster Plan and including it as a key part of your overall Bushfire Survival Plan, you'll be prepared to evacuate fast or stay put with enough supplies if a bushfire strikes.

It is vital to prepare a Pet Disaster Plan for your cat or dog before a bushfire or risk potentially losing each other forever. Share your Pet Disaster Plan with friends, family or neighbours so they can help if you can't reach your cat or dog in a bushfire emergency.

It's important to remember that a bushfire can be stressful for your pets and yourself, so plan, prepare and practice your plan then pay attention to emergency warnings in your area so you can act early.





## Step 1: Plan ahead to protect your cat or dog

### Safe Shelter Places

Before a bushfire happens, take time to investigate places for your cat or dog as part of your Pet Disaster Plan. Some evacuation centres may not permit pets so you might need to plan and agree on a safe house or animal shelter for your pet. Planning ahead will help to avoid a delay in evacuating your home and keep all of your family safe.

- A safe house:** Plan and agree with a family member or friend if they will care for your pet.
- Evacuation centre:** Check with your local council for “animal friendly” evacuation centres
- A safe shelter:** Make a list of contact information and addresses of potential “pet friendly” shelters (kennels, motels that allow pets, local vet centres).

Place their full name, address and telephone number in your Disaster Survival Kit in a waterproof container. **Have a plan to communicate with your contact after the event.**



## Step 2: Prepare a Disaster Survival Kit using our checklist

### Emergency survival items:

- Food:** Store at least three days' worth of non-perishable pet food (canned or dried) in an airtight, waterproof container (remember the can opener!).
- Water:** Store at least three days' worth of water for your pet, in addition to the water you need for yourself (remember your pet can drink more water than usual when under stress).
- Medicines:** Store any medicines your pet needs in a waterproof container, as well as any special dietary needs or supplements.
- Vet/Medical Records:** Store copies of any medical and vaccination records in a watertight container or ziplock bag.
- First Aid Kit:** Store extra cotton bandage rolls, bandage tapes, scissors, tweezers and latex gloves in addition to those required for yourself.
- Blanket/Bedding:** Familiar items like a favourite blanket or toys can help reduce stress for your pet.
- Sanitation:** Include 'poo' bags. Other useful items are newspapers, paper towels, plastic bags, gloves and household bleach (to dilute) to clean.



## Step 2: Prepare a Disaster Survival Kit using our checklist

### Equipment:

- Sturdy Lead, Harness or Muzzle:** Plus any other sturdy kind of equipment that you think will help control your pet, particularly in a stressful situation.
- A cage/carrier** should be large enough for your pet to stand comfortably, turn around, lie down and have adequate ventilation. As well as bedding, blankets and any favourite toy to reduce stress levels.

### Identification:

- Collar with ID disc:** Add an ID disc to your pet's collar that clearly states their name, your name, phone number and, if there is room, your address.
- Register and Microchip:** Ensure your pet is registered and wears the current registration tag. Make sure your dog is microchipped and a copy of the microchip certificate is in your Disaster Survival Kit.



## Step 3: Practise your plan

Like us, pets can react differently when under stress. To ensure you and your pet can move fast and feel secure if you need to shelter in place in a disaster, you should **practise getting your pet into your safe place** in the house (where your Disaster Survival Kits are kept).

**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.

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

**Try doing practice runs in the dark.**

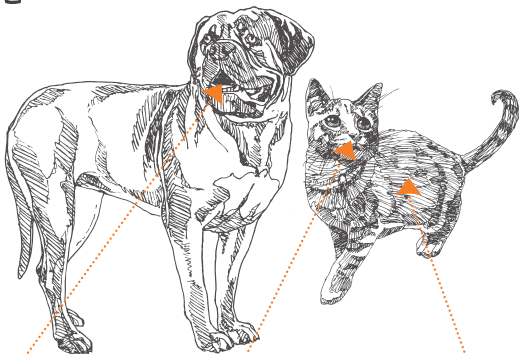
This will ensure you can navigate quicker if a disaster strikes during the night or if there is a power cut.





## Pet first aid: Know what to do for injured pets

### ABC rule



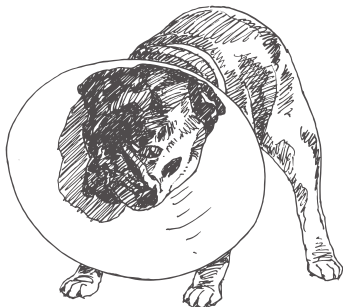
**Airways:** check for any blockages.

**Breathing:** check for laboured breathing.

**Circulation:** check for a heartbeat.

### Burns

Run cool tap water over the burn continually for **10 minutes**. Contact your vet and seek further advice.

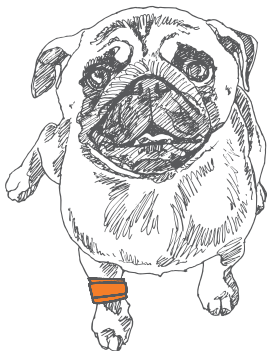




## Wounds

### **Clean the wound with saline.**

If bleeding, apply pressure and a bandage. Seek vet assistance as it may require antibiotics.



## Poisoning

### **Seek vet advice as soon as possible.**

Monitor reaction for symptoms such as heavy or shallow breathing and blood in urine.





## Pet first aid: Know what to do for injured pets

### Seizures

**Make sure your pet cannot harm themselves on items around them.**

Do not try to stop the seizure. Use your voice to attempt to calm them and contact your vet if the seizure continues for more than 5 minutes.



### Bites

**Seek vet advice as soon as possible.** Monitor reaction for symptoms such as heavy or shallow breathing and blood in urine.





## Important contact details



Pet Care  
Clinic

Dr. John Doe

📞 (275) 123 456 789

✉️ johndoe@website.com [www.website.com](http://www.website.com)

📍 4th Floor, 5th Avenue, Madison Square



### Evacuation centres and safe shelters

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..... Phone: .....

**World Animal Protection**

**protectyourpet.org.au**

1300 139 772

info@worldanimalprotection.org.au



## Notes

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