

# READY TO GO

## RSPCA ACT Bushfire and Emergency Kit








**RSPCA**  
ACT

### 1. If you plan on evacuating



If you plan on evacuating due to bushfire then evacuating early is the best way to go.

The fire danger ratings are:

	<b>No Rating</b>	<b>No proactive action required.</b>
	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Plan and prepare.</b>
	<b>High</b>	<b>Be ready to act.</b>
	<b>Extreme</b>	<b>Act now to protect your life and your property.</b>
	<b>Catastrophic</b>	<b>For your survival, leave bush fire risk areas.</b>

## 2. Your pets are going with you to a safe place

**Name location, and contact details:**

Circumstances often change so make sure you confirm arrangements ahead of any potential emergencies and ensure you're up to date with addresses and contact details. Confirm again before evacuating. Write down these details somewhere for emergency services to find.

### **The route:**

Draw, write or print a copy of the route you would take to each of these places. Make sure that you also identify at least one other way of getting there in case the roads are blocked. Attach these to this plan. Don't rely on your phone. It may not be available, or you may need to conserve power.

### **Check for safe travel:**

- ☐ Do you have crates or cages that are suitable for each pet to travel in the car?
- ☐ Will they fit with everything else you need for yourself and for the pets?

### **3. Your pets are going with someone else to a safe place**

**Who will take the animals and where will they take them?**

Make sure you check arrangements before any emergency and again if an emergency is imminent.

You must have a back-up plan. The person who's agreed to keep your pets safe may be compromised by the same emergency, like a bushfire or other extreme weather.

#### **Key arrangements**

- ☐ Do they have crates or carriers suitable for your pets to travel in?  
If not, have you made suitable arrangements for your pets to travel with them?
- ☐ Do they have access to your pets when you are not home?
- ☐ Are your animals familiar with the person? Your animals may be anxious or fearful when the person collects them.
- ☐ Prepare an emergency kit specifically for your animals and make sure the person collecting your animals knows where it is and can access it.

## **4. Your pets are going to a pet-friendly evacuation centre with you**

Evacuation centres offer shelter as a last resort, please only use an evacuation centre if necessary.

Check ahead of time if the evacuation centre can accommodate pets.

Prepare a back up plan in case it does not.

### **Where is the evacuation centre?**

### **The route:**

Draw, write or print a copy of the route you would take to each of these places.

Make sure that you also identify at least one other way of getting there in case the roads are blocked. Attach these to this plan. Don't rely on your phone. It may not be available, or you may need to conserve power.

### **New environments**

Evacuation centres are often repurposed buildings such as schools or sports stadiums. You will need to keep your pets contained. Remember people sheltered in an evacuation centre may be highly stressed, anxious or traumatised and may not want to interact with your pets.

In addition to your pet emergency kit consider:

- ☐ Blankets or towels to cover crates or carriers and block out sights and sounds of the evacuation centre.
- ☐ Make sure crates or carriers are large enough for pets to live in for a lengthy period of time, including space for food, water and toileting.

## **5. Your pets are going to boarding facilities at a safe location**

**Name, location, and contact details for boarding facility**

### **The route:**

Draw, write or print a copy of the route you would take to each of these places. Make sure that you also identify at least one other way of getting there in case the roads are blocked. Attach these to this plan. Don't rely on your phone. It may not be available, or you may need to conserve power.

## **6. Your pets are sheltering in place with you**

Where would you all wait out the emergency? Which room/s in the house?

What hazards are there in the room that you would need to remove or address before you all move in there?

What unsafe nooks and crannies are there that you would need to block?

Are there safe places you can tether dogs and put crates or cages with cats and smaller pets in the room?

Store the emergency kit for you and your pets in the room you have designated to shelter in. Bring your animals into the house as early as possible to help them adjust.

## **7. Your pets are staying home alone**

Your pets should only be left at home if it is impossible to safely evacuate them.

- Do not tie up your pets; they may need to flee.
- Provide up to ten days of food and water in multiple, accessible locations
- Prepare food dispensers to regulate supply (ideally battery operated and separate from house electricity supply which may fail).
- If filling deep basins with drinking water, place a brick or step to allow your pet to get out easily to avoid drowning.
- Make sure your pets are wearing identification and are microchipped. Make sure microchip details are current.
- Take photos of your pets in case they become lost.
- In case of a flood emergency prepare safe passageway for your pets to climb to higher, safer areas.
- Use the sticker in this emergency kit to notify emergency services of your pet's details and your contact information.





**SCAN THE QR CODE  
FOR MORE  
INFORMATION**



## **8. Help wildlife**

Please consider helping wildlife only when your family and pets are safe or ready to evacuate. If there is time and it is safe to do so, you could:

- Leave fresh drinking water in shallow containers. Put a stone inside to keep it upright and to allow wildlife to climb out if they fall in.
- If you have a pool, create a way for wildlife to escape if they fall in.
- Leave your gates open.
- Cut down vegetation and remove fuel sources like firewood or thick bushes near the house.
- Fill up bird feeders.

## **Injured wildlife**

- Do not enter dangerous hazards like burning ground or flooded land to rescue wildlife.
- Attempting to rescue wildlife including snakes, goannas, flying foxes, kangaroos, wallabies, koalas, raptors (eagles, falcons, hawks) is dangerous and should be left to trained wildlife rescuers.
- If you rescue an animal do not attempt to feed it. Wrap it loosely in cotton fabric and place it in a well-ventilated box with a lid. Contact a vet as soon as it's safe to do so.

### **Car kit for wildlife rescue**

It is a great idea to keep a kit in your car for emergencies. At a minimum think about:

- Cardboard boxes.
- Towels and pillowcases for wrapping up small animals.
- Disposable gloves.
- Thick gloves.
- Pen and paper (to write down the exact location of where the animal was found to help with its release).
- Torch.

**Only attempt to assist an animal if you can do so safely.**

### **Emergency contacts**

**For injured native animals in Canberra please contact:**

- ACT Wildlife 0432 300 033.
- RSPCA ACT (business hours only) (02) 6287 8100.
- Access Canberra for injured kangaroos and wallabies and after hours 13 22 81.

**Contact Canberra Snake Rescue and Relocation on 0405 405 604 for urgent matters and relocation.**

**In NSW:**

- WIRES 1300 094 737



# PET EMERGENCY KIT CHECKLIST

Here's a list of what you'll need to have in your pet's Emergency Kit

- ☐ Your details & contact numbers including your full name, mobile, email and home address
- ☐ Tell us about your pet
  - ☐ Name, sex, age, breed, colour, weight, microchip number.
  - ☐ A brief description of their personality (e.g. are they friendly, fearful, reactive or shy).
  - ☐ Feeding instructions, food commands.
- ☐ A folder with hardcopies of essential paperwork for your pets including:
  - ☐ Vet details.
  - ☐ Vaccination certificates.
  - ☐ Microchip and registration details [Make sure your contact details are up to date].
  - ☐ Recent photos of each pet in case they get lost.
  - ☐ Details for each pet including a description and medical information.
  - ☐ Emergency contact details of a family member or friend.
  - ☐ Keep this in a waterproof container or ziplock bag to protect them.
- ☐ Crates or carriers suitable for your pets to safely travel. Include extra bedding in case some get wet or damaged. Include blankets or towels to cover the crates or carriers.
- ☐ Food and water bowls.
- ☐ Up to ten days' worth of dry food and water for each pet.
- ☐ At least a week's worth of medication and clear written instructions.
- ☐ Litter trays and a sustainable supply of litter for cats and small animals. Remember to pack a litter scoop and a good supply of disposable poop bags.
- ☐ Collars, leashes and harnesses making sure each has a tag with your contact details. Remember any medical alert tags if needed.
- ☐ Favourite toys or blankets that can provide comfort.
- ☐ A pet first aid kit. You might also like to pack a pet first aid book.

## 9. After the emergency when you get home

It's great to be back home but make sure you check the property for damage and debris before you let your pets out of the car. Take them inside and let them settle there before letting them out without a leash or otherwise contained. Familiar surroundings might look and smell different and you don't want your pet to panic and run.

Try to get your pets back into their normal routines as soon as possible after you return home or are relocated. Elevated stress may affect pet's behaviour. Give them time, be patient and see your vet if necessary.