



**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Jordan Frey  
702-280-1105 cell  
[jfrey@sdhumane.org](mailto:jfrey@sdhumane.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
SEPT. 2, 2025**

## **Prepare Your Pets for Disaster with These Lifesaving Tips** *September is National Preparedness Month*

**SAN DIEGO** — San Diego may feel like paradise, but earthquakes, wildfires and other natural disasters can strike with little or no warning. Being prepared can mean the difference between safety and tragedy — especially for our animals, who rely on us entirely for their well-being.

In recognition of National Preparedness Month in September, San Diego Humane Society is urging pet owners to create an emergency plan now, so both people and animals are ready when disaster strikes.

“Our pets can’t plan for emergencies — that’s our job,” said Dr. Gary Weitzman, president and CEO of San Diego Humane Society. “A little preparation now can save their lives when every second counts.”

When disaster hits, beloved pets and livestock are often at risk of being left behind simply because owners are not ready. These simple steps can help keep your animals safe and by your side during an emergency:



1. **Create a pet emergency kit.** Pack at least a two-week supply of food, water and medications in a sturdy container. Include bowls, bedding toys, veterinary contact information, vaccine records and a secure crate or carrier.
2. **Practice getting pets ready to go.** Make sure your pets are comfortable entering carriers or trailers, and know their hiding spots when they’re scared. If you have livestock or large animals, keep trailers ready and work with neighbors to identify safe holding areas, especially large open spaces that can provide refuge during fires. Practice loading and unloading your animals so it’s second nature in an emergency.
3. **Never leave pets behind.** If it isn’t safe for you, it isn’t safe for them. Take your pets with you whenever you evacuate — their lives, and the lives of potential rescuers, depend on it.
4. **Make sure every pet has identification.** All pets — even indoor-only animals— should wear collars with up-to-date ID tags and be microchipped.
5. **Have a backup plan.** Identify a trusted neighbor who can get to your pets if you’re away when disaster strikes.

By taking these steps now, you can ensure your pets have the best chance of staying safe, calm and with you — no matter what disaster comes our way.

For more disaster preparedness resources, including checklists to download, visit [sdhumane.org/disasterprep](https://sdhumane.org/disasterprep).

**Photos/b-roll of adoptable animals at SDHS for media use can be downloaded here:**

<https://spaces.hightail.com/space/jUpXeEAtdr>

**Photo/video credit: San Diego Humane Society**

### **About San Diego Humane Society**

San Diego Humane Society’s scope of social responsibility goes beyond adopting animals. We offer programs that strengthen the human-animal bond, prevent cruelty and neglect, provide medical care, educate the community and serve as a safety net for all pet families. Serving San Diego County since 1880, San Diego Humane Society has campuses in El Cajon, Escondido, Oceanside, Ramona and San Diego. For more information, please visit [sdhumane.org](https://sdhumane.org).