









What Should You Do with Your Pets in a Crisis?

Are your pets members of your family? If they are, you need to plan for them when you build a family action plan (see my article “What Stuff Should You Include in a Family Action Plan?”) Your pets give you a great deal of comfort when you come home after a bad day. What can you do for them when the world changes?

Here are some things to consider:

-  If you suffer a home invasion, your pet will either move to guard the home or they will retreat and hide. OK, some will sit and wag their tails (some watch dog, huh?).
-  This protection instinct works well, but can delay first responders.
-  Packing up the pet with the rest of the family in your safe room will calm your pet and your family.
-  This means that you must practice this action with your family.
-  Assign the duty of gathering the pets to one of your kids. This gives you one less thing to remember if something requires quick action.
-  If your animals are barn animals, you should consider how they will stay safe. Do they have a place to retreat? If severe weather hits, they may not be safe. Your safe room might be a better choice. This will take lots of practice for an outside pet.
-  The safe room must have whatever the pet needs to weather the crisis. Food water, cat box, bedding, toy, etc. are all possibilities.
-  When you build a first aid kit for your safe room, consider your pet. Add the items they need (see my article “What Should be in a First Aid Kit”).

Remember: Your pets give you a lot of comfort. This is the time to repay them.