



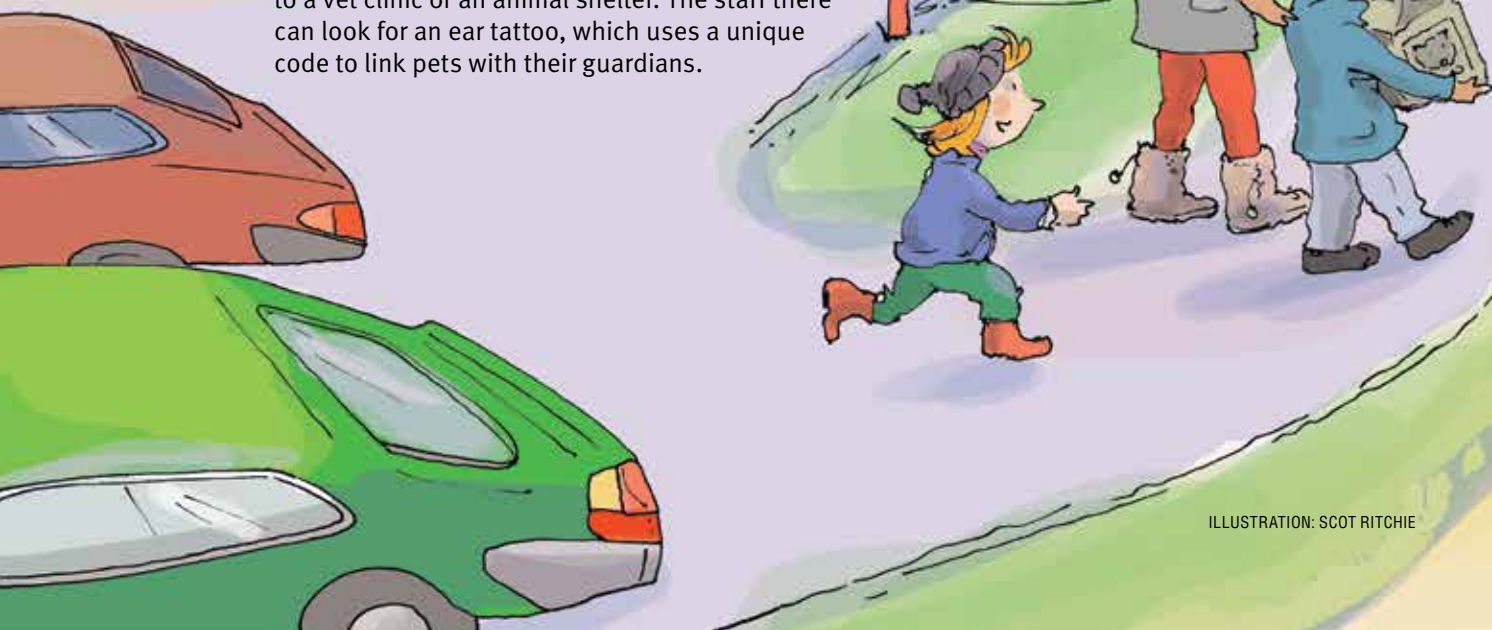
Let's say that, one day, a friendly cat just shows up at your door. What do you do? Before you even think about keeping him, make sure he doesn't have a home already!

Likely the cat belongs to someone who lets him spend time outside and he's just visiting you. Or maybe he's an indoor cat who escaped through an open window and now he's lost. Someone could be out there looking for him, worried about his safety. Either way, you can help the cat by searching for his guardian.



Check the cat for a collar and tag. A tag will likely have his name and his guardian's contact information on it. If he's wearing one, an adult can call the phone number provided to let his guardian know he's been found.

If the cat doesn't have a collar and tag, bring him to a vet clinic or an animal shelter. The staff there can look for an ear tattoo, which uses a unique code to link pets with their guardians.





The staff can also scan the cat for a microchip. A microchip is a tiny device – about the size of a grain of rice – inserted just under the skin near the shoulder blades. The scanner picks up the microchip's unique code which traces back to the guardian.

With the information from the microchip or tattoo, the staff can then let the cat's guardian know your family has him.



What if the cat has no identification (ID) – no tag, microchip or tattoo – or his ID is out of date? That can happen when people move or change their phone numbers and don't update their contact information for tattoos and microchips. It's time to put up "found cat" posters in your neighbourhood! Include a photo and description of the cat, where you found him and your family's phone number.

Post some "found" ads online too. Visit spca.bc.ca/found for websites that people use for lost and found pets. Start with the BC SPCA's own lost-and-found site, bcpetsearch.com, which creates "found" posters you can print.

Frightened lost cats don't usually stray more than a few houses from home, so there's a good chance the cat's guardian lives close by.

When you find the cat's guardian, explain how up-to-date ID – a tag and a tattoo or microchip – makes it far easier for cats to be returned home.

Also, encourage guardians who have outdoor cats to provide a catio – a screened-in area where cats can roam – to keep cats safe (and protect birds and other wildlife from cats!).

After checking for ID, putting up posters and posting ads online, what if you still can't find the cat's guardian? Call your local SPCA! Visit spca.bc.ca/branches for a list of all SPCA shelters.





**Disaster
Strikes!
are you**

PREPARED?

Your pets count on you!

Does your family have a plan in case of a flood, earthquake, fire, extended power outage or other disaster where you may have to evacuate? Having supplies and a plan before a disaster will give you peace of mind, save precious time and maybe even your pet's life.

Don't expect rescue centres to have supplies for your pets – make it your responsibility. Prepare your pet emergency kit using the checklist provided. (See next page.)

When preparing your supplies, remember that small animals, including your cats, need individual carrying cases. No matter how mellow your cats usually are, when they are frightened, they may flee and get lost.

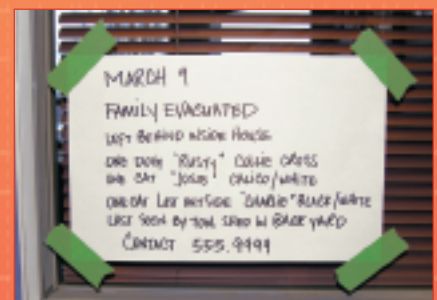
When you can't take your pet

Try your best to take your pet with you. However, rescue authorities know when it is critical to evacuate a disaster area and you must listen to them. If you cannot take your pets with you, it's not your fault. Take comfort that the BC SPCA and other animal rescue groups will look for pets left in homes and provide care for these animals.

- Post a highly visible sign in a window or on your door to let rescue workers know how many pets were left behind. Include a description of each pet (e.g., dog, "Buster," brown; cat, "Fluffy," grey). See the sample below.
- Leave plenty of water in a large tip-proof container inside and outside your home.
- Leave dry food in large open containers (or in timed feeders – check local pet stores).
- Do not tether (tie up) dogs or cats as the chances for survival are greater if they can escape easily. Leave barn doors open and open gates for farm animals.
- If your cat is outdoors when a disaster occurs, chances are your cat will be hiding somewhere in a safe place, so you might not be able to find him. If adults tell you it is time to leave, leave a sign on your window or door, explaining you have a lost cat outside and include: his name; colour; and where you last saw him.

When it's safe to go back to your home:

- Immediately check with your local animal shelter to report your pet missing. They may have already rescued your pet.





Special Considerations for Farm Animals

If your family has farm animals, make a plan today. Don't wait until it's too late. In most cases you will not be able to take your farm animals with you but you may be able to transport them to a safe shelter. Each city/municipality will be different. Do your research and try contacting the following groups for assistance:

- ✓ Farm associations
- ✓ 4H Clubs
- ✓ Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

- Make and distribute "lost pet" posters.
- Ask your neighbours to keep an eye out for your pet(s).
- Don't give up, sometimes lost pets turn up months after they have gone missing.
- Visit www.sPCA.bc.ca/kids for more information about finding a lost pet.

SPCA staff helping animals after a disaster.



COURTESY LANGLEY ADVANCE NEWS

Important!

All pets need a permanent form of identification at all times (either a tattoo or microchip) plus an ID tag with your pet's name and a phone number (cell number is ideal). In a disaster you may be separated from your pets and with ID you can be reunited.



Fast Fact!

In the Katrina hurricane disaster thousands of animals couldn't be returned to

their families because they never had ID.

Emergency Checklist:

- ✓ food/water (7-day supply or more)
- ✓ identification tag and collar
- ✓ sturdy crate and/or carrier
- ✓ pet first-aid kit
- ✓ blanket/plastic bags
- ✓ leash/harness/muzzle (for the safety of others)
- ✓ food/water bowls (collapsible are best)
- ✓ for cats, litter box and litter
- ✓ manual can opener
- ✓ recent photos of your pet
- ✓ copy of your pet's current vaccination history
- ✓ any special medications & instructions
- ✓ emergency phone numbers & addresses (pet-friendly hotels, emergency vet clinic, local animal shelter, boarding kennels, etc.)



Buy your
Pet First Aid
Kit at
www.shopbcspca.ca!

Master of Disaster

Disaster strikes! Are you prepared?

No one likes to think about wildfires, floods or earthquakes – not even adults.

Do you know what can make disasters seem less scary? Going one step further: from thinking about them to actually planning for them!

It's a bit like school. Say that you're nervous about an upcoming math test. But, even though you're worried, you study hard for it. Now you've got an idea of what sorts of math questions your teacher might ask you. And guess what? You're readier to take the test than if you hadn't studied at all.

That's what preparation does: it gives you confidence to face new challenges.

Become a Master of Disaster!

Do you know what else can help you feel less frightened about disasters? Thinking of those who'll be counting on you in an emergency – your pets! They'll need you to help keep them safe.

When a disaster happens, you probably won't have time to gather all the supplies you'll need for your pets. Put together a "grab-and-go" emergency kit ahead of time. Use a backpack or plastic tote so everything's in one place.



Here's what should go in your pet's emergency kit:

- ☐ Sturdy crate or carrier
- ☐ Food for at least a week *Dogs: 4 litres/day
Cats: 1 litre/day*
- ☐ Water for at least a week
- ☐ Manual can opener and spoon for wet food
- ☐ Food and water bowls *Collapsible dishes take up less space.*
- ☐ Plastic bags for waste disposal
- ☐ Paper towels and disinfectant *In case of accidents.*
- ☐ Blankets or towels *Something that smells like home – and you! – can be comforting.*
- ☐ Toys
- ☐ Treats
- ☐ Pet first-aid kit
- ☐ Copies of your pet's vaccination records *Use a resealable plastic bag to keep any papers dry.*
- ☐ Recent photos of your pet *It's a good idea to also have a photo of you and your pet together to help prove she's yours.*
- ☐ Short bio of your pet *Include things like his name, age, personality traits, likes/dislikes and any health/behaviour issues.*
- ☐ List of license numbers, microchip numbers and tattoo codes *Proper identification (a collar tag and a tattoo or microchip) can help you find your pet, in case you're separated during an emergency.*
- ☐ Medications for at least a week *Store your pet's medications in a water-tight container. Include any special instructions!*
- ☐ Emergency phone numbers and addresses *Make a list of places your pet can be taken in case you need to evacuate. Not all evacuation shelters allow pets. This list can include pet-friendly hotels, boarding kennels, animal shelters, veterinary clinics, family members and friends.*

For dogs:

- ☐ Leashes

Pack a six-foot leash as well as a long lead.

- ☐ Harness

Frightened dogs can sometimes slip out of their collars.

- ☐ Muzzle

Even the friendliest dogs can bite when they're afraid.

For cats:

- ☐ Litter box and scoop

- ☐ Cat litter for at least a week

For small animals:

- ☐ Water bottle and water bottle hanger

- ☐ Small hiding box

- ☐ Bedding for at least a week



Master of Disaster Contest

Tell us three things that you're planning on putting in your pet's emergency kit, and we'll enter you in a draw for a pet first-aid kit! Email your answers, along with your name, age, address and phone number, to kids@spca.bc.ca or mail them to

Bark! Master of Disaster Contest, 1245 East 7th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V5T 1R1. Contest is open to kids ages 13 and under and ends June 30, 2017.

Preparing is caring!

Visit gov.bc.ca/PreparedBC for even more tips on becoming a **Master of Disaster**. You can also download and fill out a Pet Plan for your pets.

Check out your city's website on emergency preparedness. During a disaster, your city might send out updates or have special places set up where pets can stay.

