



New York City Office of Emergency Management

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#21-13

**OEM RELEASES UPDATED EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GUIDE FOR
PET OWNERS**

*Guide Available for Download at NYC.gov/oem or by Calling 311
OEM Offers Pet Preparedness Tips at Adoptapalooza in*

Union Square, Sunday, September 8 from 12 to 5PM

September 8, 2013 – The New York City Office of Emergency Management (OEM) today introduced an updated pet preparedness guide designed to help pet owners create an emergency plan that ensures readiness for all family members, including pets. The new *Ready New York: My Pet's Emergency Plan* guide is a companion to the *My Emergency Plan* guide, an interactive workbook that teaches users preparedness lessons while they create an emergency plan for their family. The updated pet owner's guide was created by OEM with input from the Animal Planning Task Force, which includes organizations like the Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals, Animal Care and Control of New York City, Humane Society of New York, and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). The updated guide is available for download at NYC.gov/oem and by calling 311. It will be available in print in six languages in the coming weeks, including Spanish and Russian. OEM today participated in the Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals Adoptapalooza event from 12 to 5PM in Union Square Park offering emergency preparedness guides and tips for pet preparedness.

"My Pet's Emergency Plan offers more than tips and information – it is an engaging workbook to help people learn how to prepare for themselves and their pets," said Commissioner Bruno. *"Completing the My Pet's Emergency Plan* workbook will help provide people with the knowledge they need to take care of their pets in case of emergencies."

Ready New York: My Pet's Emergency Plan is an interactive workbook with three sections designed to help people make a plan for their pets, gather emergency supplies, and get information.

The plan's three main sections include:

Make a Plan

The *Ready New York: My Pet's Emergency Plan* begins by asking readers to write an emergency plan that includes:

- The names and contact information for veterinarians, a local animal shelter, a boarding facility, and a pet-friendly hotel.
- Proper identification information, including microchip number and license number.
- Important health information such as vaccination history, allergies, medications, and medical conditions.
- Emergency transportation, evacuation, and sheltering plans.

Gather Supplies

The *Gather Supplies* section of the guide helps readers gather emergency supplies for their homes and put together a pet Go Bag with a personalized collection of things they would need if they were forced to leave their home in a hurry. Examples of suggested supplies include:

- Copies of medical records that indicate dates of vaccinations
- Proof of identification and ownership
- Animal first aid kit, including flea and tick treatment
- Collapsible cage or carrier
- Comforting toys or treats
- Litter, litter pan, and scoop
- Plastic bags for clean up

Get Informed

The *Get Informed* section of the guide lists contact information for a number of government, private, and not-for-profit service providers who can assist pet owners during emergencies. Readers are also asked to list contact information for their own resource providers. Resources listed include:

- The Office of Emergency Management
- New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals
- Animal Care and Control of New York City
- Humane Society of New York
- ASPCA

My Pet's Emergency Plan is part of OEM's Ready New York suite of emergency preparedness guides. Launched in July 2003, OEM's *Ready New York* preparedness campaign is designed to help New Yorkers be prepared for all types of emergencies. The program now includes 11 multi-language publications, public service announcements, a

video, an advertising campaign, expanded web content, a speakers' bureau, a reprinting program, corporate partnerships, and extensive community outreach. *Ready New York* guides are available in up to 23 languages and on audio tape.

For more information about the *Ready New York* program, visit www.nyc.gov/oem or call 311.

How to Stay in Touch with OEM

The Office of Emergency Management communicates directly with the public through a variety of tools, including Notify NYC. This is just one way the City of New York communicates urgent information to city residents. In addition to sending e-mails, text messages, and phone calls, the emergency notification office has the ability to activate NYC's Emergency Alert System (EAS), which sends information immediately via television and radio. Residents can also visit Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and the agency's website, nyc.gov/oem for more information. The public can sign up for Notify NYC by calling 311 or going to www.NYC.gov/notifynyc.

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