
For Immediate Release

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NYC EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT HELPS NEW YORKERS PREPARE PETS FOR EMERGENCIES

September 5, 2019 — Pets and service animals are a part of the family and need to be included in your emergency plan. To help New Yorkers and their pets stay safe during emergencies, the NYC Emergency Management Department hosted an emergency preparedness event for pets and service animals at Union Square Park in Manhattan on Thursday, September 5. Partners from the City’s Animal Planning Taskforce including the Mayor’s Alliance for NYC’s Animals, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the American Red Cross of Greater New York, the Humane Society, and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals attended the event to share information with residents on preparing their pets and service animals for emergencies. NYC Emergency Management Commissioner Deanne Criswell also attended the event to underscore the importance of developing an emergency plan for your pet.

“Pets are a part of the family. For that reason, it’s important that you incorporate them in your family emergency plan.” **NYC Emergency Management Commissioner Deanne Criswell** said. “National Preparedness Month is an opportune time to create a plan to ensure the safety of your entire family, including your four-legged friend.”

“The best way to protect your pets and service animals during an emergency is to include them in your family emergency plan. Remember, your pet or service animal depends on you for their safety and well-being,” **NYC Emergency Management Director of Community Education and Language Access Iskra Killgore** said. “Having a plan for them will give you a peace of mind when you have to face the unexpected. Stop by our preparedness fair on Thursday to learn how to keep your furry friends safe during an emergency.”

At the event, City agencies and partner organizations including NYPD, FDNY, the Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities, NYC Department of Sanitation, NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission, and the Guide Dog Foundation distributed a range of emergency materials and shared preparedness tips with pet owners. Residents learned about the items to include in their pet’s Go Bag as well as how they can incorporate their pets in the family’s emergency plan. Representatives from Canine Companions for Independence, PAWS NY, and the Animal Care Centers of NYC were also on hand to help prepare New Yorkers and their pets for emergencies.

PET PREPAREDNESS TIPS:

- Create a Go Bag for your pet should you need to evacuate in a hurry. Your pet’s Go Bag should include an extra leash, collar, food, any medication your pets require, and extra identification tags.
- Keep your pet’s license number and a photo with copies of your other important documents, such as your lease, mortgage, and a copy of your social security card.

Having your pet's information will help you find your pet should they become lost during an emergency

- Practice your evacuation plans to familiarize your pet with the process and increase its comfort level.
- Identify a trusted friend, neighbor, or pet sitter to care for your pet should you find yourself unable to return home during an emergency. This person should have a set of your house keys, be familiar with your home and pet, know your emergency plan, and have your contact information.
- Put stickers on the main entrances to your home to alert rescue workers of the number and types of pets inside. Update the information on the stickers every six months. To learn more about preparing your pet or service animal for emergencies visit, <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/em/ready/pets.page>.

National Preparedness Month

National Preparedness Month is recognized each September to promote family and community disaster and emergency planning now and throughout the year. During the month, NYC Emergency Management will team up with City agencies and community partners to organize and promote a number of events for the entire family, including children, older adults, and pets, as well as inform New Yorkers and their communities about the steps they can take to prepare.

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