

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE ARTICLE/BLOG POST FOR PET OWNERS

Emergencies Affect all of Us, Including our Pets **By Darryl J. Madden, Director, *Ready* Campaign**

If you are like millions of animal owners nationwide, your pet is an important member of your household. When planning your family for disaster, don't overlook the needs of your cherished family pets. In order to be safe and survive an emergency you must take steps to prepare today.

September is National Preparedness Month (NPM), while you make a plan to prepare your family also consider your family pet. This year, NPM is focusing on helping Americans remember the disasters from our past, while preparing for the disasters of our future. Get an emergency supply kit, make a family emergency plan including your pets, and make sure you are ready to help those who may need extra help.

Pet owners can receive free preparedness tips on how to best prepare for emergencies at Ready.gov, or by calling 1-800-BE-READY, 1-888-SE-LISTO, and TTY 1-800-462-7585. Learn what to put in a pet Emergency Supply Kit, how to develop a pet care buddy system, and how to make plans in advance for neighbors' pets if they need to evacuate. In addition, instructional videos on family and pet preparedness are available at: Ready.gov/videos. This September, remember to prepare you entire family, including your pets.