

Pet Health, First Aid Kit & Preparedness by PetFinder.com

Annual Health Checklist

- ✓ Take your pet to a veterinarian for regular check-ups at least once a year. At these visits, your vet will give your pet a physical exam, check blood work if necessary, examine her teeth and assess any changes your pet may be experiencing. Yearly check-ups are key to catching, diagnosing and treating any potential health problems. As your pet gets older, her physical and nutritional needs change.
- ✓ Keep your pet's vaccinations current.
- ✓ Follow vaccination guidelines as recommended by your vet to prevent illnesses such as rabies and kennel cough. See PetFinder.com for a full suggested-vaccination schedule.
- ✓ Spay (if female) or neuter (if male) your pet. This important surgery is recommended as early as eight weeks or before adulthood. Discuss the time that is best for your pet with your veterinarian.
- ✓ Use heartworm preventative. *All dogs*, no matter if they go outside or are indoor pets, are at risk of contracting heartworm disease. Your dog should be tested for heartworms annually. If left untreated, heartworm disease can pose significant health threats to your pet and even cause death. Given once a month, HEARTGARD® or HEARTGARD Plus® (ivermectin) is the best way to prevent heartworms. HEARTGARD Plus® is also effective in the treatment and control of roundworms and hookworms. Visit Heartgard.com® for more information.
- ✓ Control intestinal parasites.
- ✓ Practice good dental care and hygiene for your pets.
- ✓ Check your pet's teeth for tartar build-up every couple of months. Speak to your vet to schedule regular professional teeth cleanings.
- ✓ Feed your pet right. Make sure your pet receives a complete and balanced diet, which is important for healthy growth and bone formation. Ask your vet for the nutritional needs of your pet.
- ✓ Groom your pet. Brush your pet's coat and wipe away any discharge from around his or her eyes with a soft cloth daily. Regular baths not only will make him more pleasant to be around, they are an opportunity to check for any injuries, parasites or other skin or coat problems.
- ✓ Take care of your pet's ears.
 - Check and clean your pet's ears weekly to prevent infections.
 - Use an ear-cleaning solution made for dogs and cats. Squirt the solution into the ear, filling the entire canal and gently massage the ear base for sixty seconds. Let your pet shake its head, and then use a cotton ball to wipe out any debris.
 - Never use Q-tips® because they can easily break off and get stuck in your pet's ear canal.
 - Never use peroxide, soap, water or oil to clean your pet's ears.
- ✓ Control fleas and ticks. Fleas and ticks are terrible nuisances and may pose a real threat to the health and comfort of your pet. In addition to extreme discomfort for your pet, fleas can also infest your whole home and make it very unpleasant for your family. FRONTLINE® Brand Products offer long-lasting, complete flea and tick control. Frontline®:
 - controls both fleas and ticks
 - is the brand veterinarians recommend most often
 - breaks the flea life cycle to prevent a flea infestation on your pet and in your home
 - works fast and lasts for a whole month
 - is waterproof even after a bath and swim
 - is safe for use on puppies and kittensVisit Frontline.com® for more information.

Recommended Pet First-Aid Kit

This is for a basic pet first-aid kit. For convenience, you may want to make one for your home, another for your car and one for your pet's disaster preparedness kit.

- Sterile gauze pads (3" x 3" and 2" X 2") and gauze bandage rolls (1" and 2")
- First aid adhesive tape, 1" roll
- Cotton swabs (Q-tips®)
- Tweezers
- Scissors
- Plastic freezer/sandwich bags (Ziploc style preferred)
- Small bottle of 3% hydrogen peroxide
- Styptic pencil or cornstarch (stems blood flow from minor cuts)
- Antibacterial ointment
- Antiseptic cleansing wipes
- Kaopectate® or Pepto-Bismol®
- A current pet first-aid book

- Eyewash
- Eyedropper
- Mineral oil (a lubricant and laxative when given by mouth)
- Digital or rectal thermometer in a plastic case
- Leather work gloves (to protect you from being bitten)
- Latex gloves
- Leash
- Thin rope
- Splint materials (tongue depressor, 12-inch wooden ruler or thick magazine)

Place the contents in a plastic storage box, tackle box or coffee can with lid. Pre-made pet first-aid kits are available for purchase at pet supply stores such as PETCO, pharmacies, retail and discount stores, on-line and even the RedCross.org.

Disaster Preparedness Kit Checklist

- Food** One-to-two-week supply of the dry or canned food your pet usually eats. (While stored, make sure to replace the food according to expiration dates.) Also include a spoon, food dish and, if you use canned foods, a can opener. Record your pet's eating habits (amount and times) as well as any allergies your pet may have and keep the record with the other paperwork in this kit. Store the food in a waterproof and protective bag or case.
- Water** One-to-two-week supply in gallon-sized plastic containers. (Make sure to replace stored water regularly to ensure freshness.) Include a collapsible or travel water bowl that is easy to store.
- Cleaning Supplies** To clean crates/litter boxes.
- Cat Litter** One-to-two-week supply plus a small, plastic litter box and litter scoop. You can opt for disposable litter boxes that come pre-made with litter.
- Paperwork**
- Photographs** In case you need to distribute pictures if your pet gets lost.
- Vaccine Records/Medical History** Copies of important veterinary documents, such as vaccination records, medical history, medical conditions, records of important test results (FeLV/FIV).
- Veterinary Information** Write down the name, address and phone number of your vet and an alternate vet. Write out a release statement, authorizing medical treatments for your pets. Write down your pet insurance policy number, if you have one.
- Proof of Ownership/Animal Information** Copies of registration information, adoption papers, proof of purchase, microchip, tattoo or other identification information.
- List of Emergency Contacts**
- Medication** List each pet separately and include dose and frequency for each medication. Keep a two-week reserve supply, with directions on how to administer. If possible, keep the medication in the original jar or bottle that it came in. Replace according to expiration dates. Don't forget reserve doses of flea and tick and heartworm preventatives.
- Spare or Extra Collars, Harnesses, or Leashes**
- Bedding or Pet Blankets**
- Identification Tags** If possible, have the ability to write your temporary location or contact information on the tags.
- Brushes/Combs, Grooming Supplies**
- Toys**
- Animal Crates or Carriers** Label with your contact information; make sure the animal has room to move around, and it is safe for the pet (latches and bolts should be secure).
- Pet First-Aid Kit** (as listed above)



Additional Information:

ALL-HAZARDS PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST FOR Birds, Reptiles, Amphibians, Ferrets, Hamsters, Gerbils, Rats, Mice, Guinea Pigs, ETC

http://issuu.com/wagn4u/docs/exotic_animal_checklist

ALL-HAZARDS PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST FOR Cats & Dogs (16pgs) <http://tweetcube.com/uploads/e700ec10bc.pdf>

Evacuation Notice - No Pets Left Behind Evacuation Card <http://www.wagnpetsafety.com/pdf/FREE%20WEB%20EVACUATION%20NOTICE%20-%20NO%20PETS%20LEFT%20BEHIND.pdf>

Evacuation Notice - Live Animals Left Behind Evacuation Card <http://www.wagnpetsafety.com/pdf/FREE%20WEB%20EVACUATION%20NOTICE%20-%20LIVE%20ANIMALS%20LEFT%20BEHIND.pdf>

Prepping for Animals Pets & Livestock <http://www.scribd.com/doc/50950940/Prepping-for-Animals-Pets-Livestock>

I share Preparedness, Homesteading, Self-reliance knowledge & doc's at:

<http://NMUrbanHomesteader.blogspot.com/> & <http://www.scribd.com/TNTCrazyLady>