



News from Livingston County

MEDIA CONTACT: June Webster, Emergency Preparedness Planner
(585) 243-7524
Kevin Niedermaier, Emergency Manager
(585) 243-7160

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Are You Prepared?

September is National Preparedness Month. Don't forget to pack a Pet Emergency Supply Kit. Just as you do with your family's emergency supply kit, think first about the basics for your pet's survival, particularly food and water.

First, plan how you will assemble your pets and anticipate where you will go. If you must evacuate, take your pets with you, if practical. If you go to a public shelter, keep in mind your pets may not be allowed inside.

Develop a buddy system with neighbors, friends or relatives to make sure that someone is available to care for or evacuate your pets if you are unable to do so. Show them where you keep your pet's emergency supply kit. Also consider family or friends outside your immediate area who would be willing to take in you and your pets in an emergency. Other options may include: a hotel or motel that takes pets or some sort of boarding facility, such as a kennel or veterinary hospital that is near an evacuation facility or your family's meeting place.

A limited number of Emergency Preparedness for Pet Owners flip guides, which include a full list of items for your Pet Emergency Kit, are available at the Livingston County Department of Health, 1st floor reception area, 2 Murray Health, Mount Morris and also at the Livingston County Office of Emergency Management, 3360 Gypsy Lane, Mount Morris.

A Pet Emergency Supply Kit includes at least three days of food and water in airtight, waterproof containers, your pet medications that they take on a regular basis, a backup leash, extra collar and ID tag in your pet's emergency supply kit. Place copies of your pet's registration information, adoption papers, vaccination documents and medical records in a clean plastic bag or waterproof container and also add them to your kit.

Your pet should wear a collar with its rabies tag and identification. Don't forget to include a crate or other pet carrier, clean up supplies for your pet's sanitation needs. A picture of you and your pet together: If you become separated from your pet during an emergency, a picture of you and your pet together will help you document ownership and allow others to assist you in identifying your pet. Put favorite toys, treat or bedding in your kit, these can reduce the stress for your pet.

Talk to your pet's veterinarian about microchipping. If you and your pet are separated, this permanent implant for your pet and corresponding enrollment in a recovery database can help a veterinarian or shelter identify your animal.

Be sure your pet dogs, cats and ferrets as well as horses and valuable livestock animals are up-to-date on their rabies vaccinations. Vaccination

protects pets if they are exposed to rabid animals. Pets too young to be vaccinated should be kept indoors and allowed outside only under direct observation. The Livingston County Department of Health offer rabies vaccination clinics every year. Upcoming clinics: September 10th at Babcock Park in Dansville and October 8th in at Hampton's Corners in Groveland from 5-7:00 p.m.

If you have any questions about emergency preparedness, please contact the Livingston County Department of Health at (585) 243-7524 or Office of Emergency Management at 243-7160 or visit our website at www.livingstoncounty.us/doh.htm.

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