

# An Evacuation Kit for Your Small Mammal

*Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff*

## Food and Water

- Food: Two weeks supply; place dry food in airtight containers (rotate every 3 months)
- Usual treats (rotate every 3 months)
- Water: Two weeks supply of water (store in dark place, rotate every 2 months). Estimate 1-2 pints a day depending upon your pet's size.
- Food and water dishes
- Spoons and can opener, if necessary

## Restraint and Identification

- Towels
- Thick gloves (in case your pet is injured or very afraid)
- Small transport cage, that your pet will not be able to chew out of. Do not attempt to transport your pet in his cage if it has branches, dishes, hide boxes, or other items that could injure your pet if the cage is jarred. Be sure the transport cage is escape-proof, with no sharp edges. Securely attach the following information indelibly printed: your name; phone number; address; a description of your pet (distinguishing marks, age, sex, species, etc.); the name of your pet; nutritional needs (someone rescuing your pet may not be familiar with what he eats); microchip ID or tattoo ID, if any; pet insurance policy number; and

## Care and Comfort

- Evacuation cage (may be the same as the transport cage). Solid-walled cages such as aquariums will be more insulating.
- Blanket and/or sheet to cover cage
- Hide box or log
- Toys
- Hot water bottles to keep cage warm (empty plastic milk containers work well)
- Heating pad and extension cord (preferably outdoor-approved)
- Styrofoam cooler to help insulate your pet, if he is very small
- Flashlight and batteries
- Cage thermometer(s)

## Records and Medications (store in a waterproof container)

- List of phone numbers:
  - Your veterinarian
  - List of secondary veterinarians
  - "Pet-friendly" motels
  - Boarding facilities (Red Cross shelters do not allow animals)
  - Emergency clinic(s)
  - Database centers if your pet is tattooed or has a microchip
  - Animal poison control center(s)
  - Animal shelters in your area (in case you get separated from your pet)

the address and phone number where you or a contact person can be reached if you are not at home.

- Recent photographs with the same information that is on the pet carrier printed on the back (keep in a waterproof container, e.g., inside several ziplock bags). Include yourself in some of the photos to help you reclaim your pet, should he become lost.
- Wire, pliers, and duct tape (to repair pet carrier)

#### Sanitation

- Small litter pan, litter, and scoop (for rabbits)
- Newspaper for lining the cage
- Additional substrate
- Paper towels
- Dish soap
- Disinfectant
- Garbage bags
- Plastic bags for holding waste (two weeks supply)

- Pet insurance policy number
- Copies of proof of ownership papers (registration information, adoption papers, proofs of purchase, and microchip/tattoo information to store in the evacuation kit). List each of your animals and their species/breed, age, sex, color, and other distinguishing characteristics.
- Medical records and/or list of medical needs, if your pet has a medical condition or is on medication
- Two weeks supply of medication and any supplements in waterproof container (rotate every two months); have chemical ice packs and a small, insulated cooler if medication needs refrigeration
- First aid kit

A large plastic tub or garbage can with a lid can be used to store these disaster preparedness items for your pet. Tape a copy of this list to the inside of the cover for future reference. Include a calendar indicating when certain items should be/were replaced.

In addition to the items listed above, include anything you use for your pet on a weekly or monthly basis. A good idea is to collect all the materials for your disaster preparedness kit, and then experiment by using only those items to care for your pet the next two weeks. That way, you will easily find out if you need to include other items, or a larger quantity of certain things.