Hertfordshire is a safe county but it can still experience situations that disrupt our daily lives. The good news is that there are simple things you can do to make sure you and your pets are ready to deal with an emergency, particularly if you think ahead and make some plans.

Checklist

- Prepare your pet plan and ensure your family is aware of it.
- Make sure your animal is identifiable.
- Keep a record of your pet’s regular medication.
- Check with the Environment Agency to see if your area is at risk from flooding and consider registering for the Flood Alert service.

Add here any contact numbers, addresses or details relevant to your pet.

Vet’s Contact Number: ..............................................
Microchip Number: ..................................................
Medication: ............................................................
Local kennels or catteries: ..............................
Other: .................................................................

Keep your plan updated and in a safe place.

Useful Information

You can find more information and tips online at www.hertsdirect.org/readyforanything

Useful information can also be found at:

- www.redcross.org.uk/prepare
- www.environment-agency.gov.uk/floodsoutheast or call Floodline on 0845 988 1188
- www.herts.police.uk or telephone 101
- www.rspca.org.uk or call RSPCA 24-hour cruelty line 0300 1234 999

How to care for your pets in an emergency
Make a pet plan now...

Things to think about:

1 Safer at home

If it is safe to do so, your pets may be happier left at home in a familiar environment. Food, water and litter facilities for several days should be left accessible for your pet. If your home or garden is at risk of flooding, consider moving your pets to higher ground. Owners are responsible for ensuring that their pets are left in a safe and secure place.

2 Preparing your pet for evacuation

In some emergencies it may be necessary for the emergency services to evacuate you from your home for safety, with little or no notice. The more you can do in advance to be prepared, the better the experience will be for you and your pets.

Plan ahead where you might go and consider alternative accommodation for your pets. Ideally this could be a relative or friend, local kennels or catteries, or a pet friendly hotel or bed and breakfast.

3 Pet Emergency Kit

What does your pet need in an emergency? Consider putting together an emergency kit:

- Collar and lead.
- Secure and labelled pet carrier.
- Proof of ownership and vaccination documents.
- Microchip details.
- Emergency contact list, to include details for your vet.
- Pet first aid kit.
- A record of any regular pet medication.
- Familiar items e.g. toy or blanket.
- Pet food.
- Sanitation – pet litter, litter box and poop bags.

For dogs, consider including a basket muzzle that fits your dog, as even the gentlest of animals can become aggressive when distressed by an emergency situation.

4 Identification and proof of ownership

Make sure your pet is micro-chipped for easy identification. This can be undertaken by any vet or animal welfare organisation.

Keep a note of the microchip number in your pet emergency kit and ensure your contact details are kept up to date. Other forms of identification should include collar tags.

With these simple preparations, you can be ready for the unexpected. If you take the time to prepare, your pets will likely encounter less difficulty, stress and worry.

Take the time now to get yourself and your pets ready.