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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## September is National Preparedness Month

*San Diego Humane Society Reminds Pet Parents to Include Their Animals in Emergency Plan*

**SAN DIEGO** — In light of recent fires that burned across San Diego County, San Diego Humane Society reminds pet owners to include their pets when planning for an emergency.

In honor of National Preparedness Month, SDHS will be providing emergency planning tips through our social media channels all month long to help educate pet owners about how to keep their pets safe when disaster strikes.

**San Diego Humane Society recommends the following tips for emergency planning:**

1. **Plan Ahead.** Evacuation shelters generally don't accept pets, so it's important to plan ahead. Research hotels outside your area for pet policies and ask friends if you and your pets can stay with them in case of a disaster.
2. **Identification.** Make sure your pets are wearing identification at all times, including animals who don't normally go outside. Having your pet microchipped can further protect your pet and help identify him if he becomes lost.
3. **Leave Early and Take Your Pets.** If you are evacuating your home, take your pets with you because you may be forced to stay away longer than anticipated. Leave early and don't wait for mandatory evacuation orders.
4. **Plan When You're Away.** A disaster may strike or an order to evacuate may come when you're away from home. Make arrangements in advance with a trusted neighbor to take your pets and meet you at a specified location.





5. **Plan for Large Animals.** If you have large animals/livestock, have trailers or travel containers available for all of these animals. Work with your animals in advance so they are used to being loaded and unloaded from their trailers.
6. **Prepare an Emergency Kit.** Put supplies in a water-proof container. Gather three-plus days of food, bowls, water and two weeks of your pet's medications.
7. **Register with Finding Rover.** Register your dog with Finding Rover, an app that uses facial recognition to reunite lost dogs with their owners. Your smartphone is also a good place to keep photos of your pets.
8. **Learn First-Aid.** The last thing you want is to be frazzled when your pet is injured. Spare yourself (and your pet) the panic, by familiarizing yourself with what to do should your pet ever become sick.
9. **Microchip.** Have your pet microchipped and make sure that you not only keep your address and phone number up-to-date, but also include an emergency contact outside of your immediate area.
10. **Know your Vet.** Locate a veterinarian or animal hospital in the area where you may be seeking temporary shelter, in case your pet needs medical care. Also, be sure to add the contact information to your emergency kit.

**To schedule an interview or to plan an in-studio segment, please contact Dariel Walker at (619) 250-6801 or [dwalker@sdhumane.org](mailto:dwalker@sdhumane.org).**

**Suggested Tweet:** September is National Preparedness Month! @sdhumane reminds pet owners to include their pets when planning for an emergency. <http://bit.ly/2M8FgSH> #NationalPreparednessMonth

#### **About San Diego Humane Society**

San Diego Humane Society's scope of social responsibility goes beyond adopting animals. We offer programs that strengthen the human-animal bond, prevent cruelty and neglect, provide medical care, educate the community and serve as a safety net for all pet families. Serving San Diego County since 1880, San Diego Humane Society has campuses located in Escondido, Oceanside and San Diego. For more information; please visit [www.sdhumane.org](http://www.sdhumane.org).

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