

Have You Got P.E.P.?

PET EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

All Pets, Large & Small | Equine | Wildlife



The devastating wildfires in Los Angeles County are a stark reminder for us all to get better prepared for any and all emergencies that come our way. As you prepare your household, don't forget to include your animals in your emergency plans, kits, and drills. Read below for tips and guidance from the Rancho Palos Verdes Emergency Preparedness Committee.

Pet Emergency Supply Kit

- Several days of food, water and feeding utensils (ex. bowl)
- Any medicine your animal takes on a regular basis in a waterproof container
- Copies of your pet's registration and vaccination information
- Recent photo of you and your pet together
- Backup collar with ID, carrier, crate, harness, and/or leash
- Items for sanitation needs (ex. pet litter and box, trash bags)
- Carrier or crate for each pet
- Grooming items

 First aid kit for animals supply list from American Red Cross: [link](#)

- Familiar items, such as favorite toys, treats or bedding

PREPARING ALL PETS for EMERGENCIES

Make a Plan. If you have a plan in place for you and your pets, you will likely encounter less difficulty, stress and worry when you need to make a decision during an emergency. Your plan should include considerations for your animals, such as:

- Where will you shelter your animals if you have to evacuate the area?
- How will you transport your animals if you must evacuate?
- Who can evacuate your animals if you are unable to do so?

Build a Kit. Just as you do with your family's emergency supply kit, make a kit for your pets (see inset). Think first about the basics for survival. Review your kit and regularly rotate items to ensure that their contents are fresh.

Put a rescue sticker alert on your window that is visible to rescue workers. Include the types and number of pets in your household and your veterinarian's phone number. If you must evacuate with your pets (and if time allows), write "EVACUATED" across the sticker so rescue workers don't waste time looking for them. ASPCA has a free Pet Safety Pack with stickers [here](#).

Make sure animals are up to date on vaccinations and microchipped to avoid issues with emergency sheltering and/or finding a missing animal. Keep contact information on the microchip updated and register with multiple databases to increase chances of a successful reunion. See where your chip is registered with the AAHA Microchip Registry Lookup Tool [here](#).

More Resources:

- ◆ Pet Preparedness Guide from LA County Public Health: [link](#)
- ◆ ASPCA tips for animal preparedness: [link](#)

PREPARING HORSES for EMERGENCIES

Make a Plan. Horse owners need to make their own plan for emergency transportation and sheltering of horses; emergency responders will not evacuate them.

Considerations:

- Be cautious and realistic; many well-meaning individuals stay for the sake of their animals and do not survive
- Evacuate when you receive an evacuation warning - DON'T wait for an order
- If you end up using an unfamiliar horse hauler, make sure that you gather their contact information and photograph the driver, their driver's license, vehicle identification and license plate

Teach your horses how to trailer. Spend time loading and unloading the animals so they are safe and willing to load; consider practicing loading during the day and night.

Consider partnering with a barn on the opposite side of the Peninsula and further away in case the entire hill should evacuate. Arrange ahead of time to help transport horses and use one another's facilities if needed and safe to do so. Understand what vaccinations and documents that facility requires before they can shelter your horse.

Build an Equine Emergency Supply Kit. Aside from the supplies listed on the previous page, see inset on this page for horse-specific items.

Maintain supplies for equine emergency evacuations or sheltering:

- ❖ Keep trucks and trailers well-maintained, fueled up and ready to go
- ❖ Regularly check that stall locks and latches are functional
- ❖ Update any faded address markers or driveway signs so that emergency services can easily identify your home or barn
- ❖ Remove dead vegetation from roofs and gutters and create an ember-resistant zone around your barn

Find local equine emergency resources, a preparedness quiz and comprehensive booklet [here](#) .



Equine

Emergency Supplies

- Duct Tape
- Sharp Utility Knife
- Wire Cutters
- Hoof Pick
- Shovel
- Bandanas (to use as blindfolds)
- Livestock Crayon, Sharpie or Spray Paint for Identifying Purposes
- Always keep a non-nylon halter, lead rope (with contact info), and stall card outside of your horse's stall



Equine-specific first aid kit

Including: Petroleum Jelly, Digital Thermometer, Liniment, Isopropyl Alcohol, Antibacterial or Antiseptic Scrub, Topical Antibacterial Cream, Wound Dressing Gauze Pads, 1 Roll of Gauze, 2 Flexible Stretch Adhesive Bandages, 1 lb Roll of 12" Absorbent Cotton, Bandage Scissors, 1 Roll Adhesive Tape, 4 Stable Wraps

WILDLIFE CAUTION during emergencies

During wildfires and other emergencies, wildlife and their habitats can be impacted, and, just like people, animals may be forced to flee their homes. As Rancho Palos Verdes is uniquely situated in rolling hills, canyons, preserves and is part of the wildlife-urban interface, in a local emergency you may encounter fleeing wildlife. Remember that wildlife may be panicked, confused, or defensive. Be cautious and take the following steps if you encounter wild animals during an emergency.

Rattlesnake Encounters

Rattlesnakes are venomous snakes with spade-shaped heads and named for the rattle at the end of their tails, which is used as a warning device when the snake feels threatened. The exception is baby rattlesnakes which can't rattle until a few weeks old. If you encounter one, stay calm. Freeze, back away slowly, and allow the snake to pass. When coiled, snakes can strike to half their body length. Allow enough distance between you and the snake that it will not be able to reach you.

Do not disturb the snake; do not poke it with sticks or throw rocks at it.

Coyote or Wild Dog Encounters



Fox
Weight: 8-20 lbs.
Height: 12 inches



Coyote
Weight: 20-30 lbs.
Height: 18 inches



German shepherd
Weight: 85-95 lbs.
Height: 26 inches

Coyotes are a medium-sized member of the dog family, and are smaller than their close relative, the wolf. Coyotes are scavengers that look for easy meals including other animals, trash or food discarded by humans. They are most active during dusk and dawn hours.

WHAT TO DO DURING A COYOTE OR WILD DOG ENCOUNTER

- Maintain eye contact and move away slowly
- Do NOT run. Running will trigger the coyote's instinct to chase you
- Make yourself as big as possible while waving your arms
- Make loud noises; yell or use a noise making device such as an air horn or whistle
- Throw rocks, sticks, or anything else you can find toward the coyote
- Immediately pick up any small children or pets present
- If you can safely access a building or vehicle, use it as a barrier between you and the coyote

For more information on coyote sighting/reporting, visit: www.rpvca.gov/335/Coyotes

Contact Local Animal Control and Care for lost animals, loose or dead wild animals, animal injuries, emergency animal sheltering resources, and low-cost vaccinations. Link: <https://www.rpvca.gov/331/Animal-Control>

Sign up here to have this monthly message from the **Emergency Preparedness Committee (EPC)** sent to your inbox: <https://www.rpvca.gov/list.aspx> . For additional information and resources, please contact the EPC at EPC@rpvca.gov or (310) 544-5209 .