

MAY Newsletter

MAKE A PLAN For Your Pets

Whether you are new to the program, or back for Month Five, please review the previous newsletter activities (complete the “Family Communications Plan”, purchase a duffel bag /storage bin and stock up on specific items for your “Go Kit” and “Stay Kit”).

Make a plan for your pet’s safety during any severe weather or possible disaster. Keep your pet’s important records together including the veterinarian’s name and phone number, animal current health conditions, medication list, immunizations and a current photo.

In general, pets should not be left behind in an emergency. However, do not risk your own personal safety attempting to find them if you must evacuate quickly during a disaster. In an evacuation, most public shelters do not allow animals except for service animals that assist individuals with disabilities. Consider a pet shelter, friend or family member outside of your area in case you are unable to care for your pet.

CONTINUE TO BUILD YOUR KITS

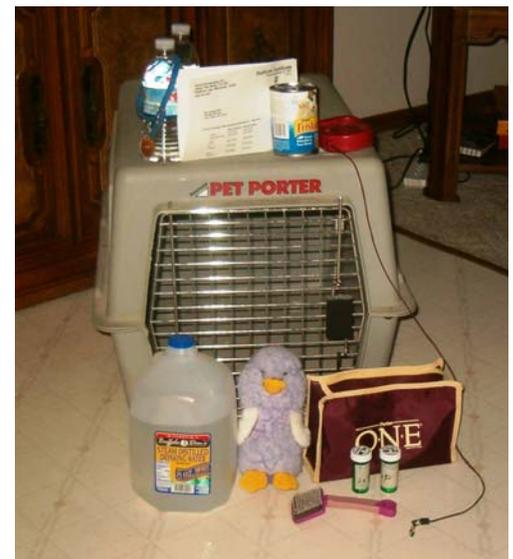
The “*Items of the Month*” for May include pet food, snacks and any animal medication. Consider your pet’s unique needs when selecting food items for your “Go Kit” and “Stay Kit”. Remember to check the expiration dates and rotate the pet supplies.

For your pet’s “Stay Kit”

- food
- medication, if applicable
- adequate water
- litter supplies/bedding
- identification/medical information

For your pet’s “Go Kit”

- food and water for at least 3 days
- carrier or cage, pet bed and toys
- leash, harness and/or carrier to transport your pet
- veterinarian name/number
- medications
- identification/medical conditions/immunizations
- current photo
- litter supplies/plastic bags/bedding



BE INFORMED

Americans love their pets and being a pet owner has responsibilities. Some of those responsibilities include proper vaccination, licensing, and control of your pet. The state of Wisconsin requires dogs to be immunized for rabies (Wis Stats. Sec. 95.21 (10)(b)) and to be licensed (Wis Stats. 174.07 (1) (b)). So if your dog is not current with his/her rabies vaccine and license, please address this as soon as possible! If you own a cat, the City of Oak Creek also requires that your cat is licensed (City of Oak Creek Municipal Code section 7.49).

Now that “Spring is in the air”, people may have more contact with dogs.

Each year, 800,000 Americans seek medical attention for dog bites; half of these are children. Of those injured, 386,000 require treatment in an emergency department and about 16 die. The rate of dog bite-related injuries is highest for children ages 5 to 9 years, and the rate decreases as children age. Almost two thirds of injuries among children ages four years and younger are to the head or neck region.

Animal bites are reportable to the police in Oak Creek (City of Oak Creek Municipal Code section 7.42). If there is reason to believe that your dog/cat has bitten a person or animal it is the law that the biting animal is quarantined for a period of at least 10 days after the bite. The Health Department determines the quarantine location based on the rabies vaccination status of the animal and the animal owner’s ability to maintain the isolation of the biting animal. The animal must be examined by a veterinarian three times during the quarantine period at the owner’s expense.

Most dog bites are preventable. Adults and children can learn to reduce their chances of being bitten.

Before you bring a dog into your household:

- Consult with a professional (e.g., veterinarian, animal behaviorist, or responsible breeder) to learn what breeds of dogs are the best fit for your household.
- Dogs with histories of aggression are not suitable for households with children.
- Be sensitive to cues that a child is fearful or apprehensive about a dog. If a child seems frightened by dogs, wait before bringing a dog into your household.
- Spend time with a dog before buying or adopting it. Use caution when bringing a dog into a household with an infant or toddler.

If you decide to bring a dog into your home:

- Spay/neuter your dog (this often reduces aggressive tendencies).
- Never leave infants or young children alone with a dog.
- Don’t play aggressive games with your dog (e.g., wrestling).
- Properly socialize and train any dog entering your household. Teach the dog submissive behaviors (e.g., rolling over to expose the abdomen and giving up food without growling).
- Immediately seek professional advice (e.g., from veterinarians, animal behaviorists, or responsible breeders) if the dog develops aggressive or undesirable behaviors.

To help prevent children from being bitten by dogs, teach the following basic safety tips and review them regularly:

- Do not approach an unfamiliar dog.
- Do not run from a dog or scream.
- Remain motionless (e.g., "be still like a tree") when approached by an unfamiliar dog.
- If knocked over by a dog, roll into a ball and lie still (e.g., "be still like a log").
- Do not play with a dog unless supervised by an adult.
- Immediately report stray dogs or dogs displaying unusual behavior to an adult.
- Avoid direct eye contact with a dog.
- Do not disturb a dog that is sleeping, eating, or caring for puppies.
- Do not pet a dog without allowing it to see and sniff you first.
- If bitten, immediately report the bite to an adult.

If a disaster occurs, you/your children will decrease the chances of being bitten by a dog if they already know how to avoid it during normal times.