

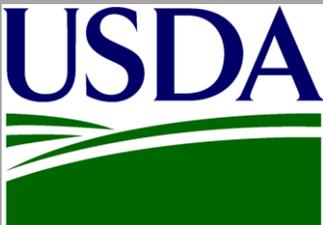
# Breeder Tips from United All Breed Registry



*Pazzazz Boarding Kennel lost 17 dogs in a propane explosion*



*St. Croix Animal Welfare Center after Hurricane Irene*



[Get contingency planning guidelines from the USDA](#)



[Share this very thorough disaster planning guide with new pet owners](#)

## Are You Prepared?

There are so many events that could endanger the lives of our animals if we are not prepared.



Maybe both caretakers are injured at the same time, maybe a tornado hits, maybe there are widespread power outages during high heat, or maybe a contagious disease takes hold in one of your buildings. We don't like having to think about these things, but a few hours spent preparing for such emergencies may save your entire kennel someday.

As you are probably aware, the Animal Welfare Act/USDA requires pet breeders to have a plan for emergencies and disasters. It's just common sense. Maybe these notes will help you think it through and **WRITE IT DOWN**. USDA wants your plan done by the end of July, and they will start asking to see them for review in October of this year.

### 1. What emergencies might occur at your place?

- Fire
- Loss of electricity
- Loss of clean water
- Loss of employee/help
- Your own disability/death
- Heating/Cooling failure
- Animal disease outbreak
- Earthquake
- Tornado/Hurricane
- Ice Storm
- Extreme Heat
- Wildfire
- Flooding

**2. Action.** For each emergency above, decide on your action plan. Will you stay on the premises with the animals? Will the animals be relocated? Where? Will you have access to clean water and feed? Do you have a back-up plan for

climate control? Are records kept in a safe place and backed up/copied in another place?

**3. Evacuation.** If the animals have to leave the facility, where will they go? How will they be transported? Do you have adequate cages and an alternate location? Does the new location have climate control? We advise making "buddy kennel" arrangements with two other kennels, one in your immediate area and another some distance away (at least 50 miles). You can keep copies of each other's contingency plans, and agree to house each other's animals if needed.

**4. Escaped Animals.** If your animals escape from a damaged building, do you have the equipment needed to catch them? That might include: two-way radios, gloves, nets, drugs, darting equipment, etc. Do you have secondary fencing to help keep them on your property? Do you have adequate cages, leashes and vehicles to transport animals back home? Are your dogs sufficiently socialized that a stranger could catch them?

**5. Organization.** Do you keep emergency personnel numbers visible near your phones, including animal control agencies and shelters? Do all of your employees know where to shut off the main electric breaker? It is advisable to pre-assign emergency responsibilities to your staff so that everyone can do their assigned job in an emergency without a lot of discussion. Make sure everyone who has an assignment on your emergency plan has a list with everyone else's phone numbers. What if you are not at home when the emergency arises? Who is second-in-command? Do they have permission to carry out these plans if you cannot be reached in an emergency? You might want to leave that in writing for them, along with proof of all your animals' vaccinations.

**6. Supplies.** After strategizing all the possible emergencies and how you will handle them, make a list of all the equipment and supplies you currently don't have, and go shopping! When an emergency hits, you may not have time to gather supplies for your animals' feeding and care; it's best to have everything in ready-to-go waterproof containers. This includes: pet food, medications, first aid supplies, enough snap-on leashes for all of your dogs, cleaning supplies, dog dishes, can opener, etc.

**7. Training.** Make sure that everyone working at your kennel knows the plan, understands their role in it and knows where everything can be found.

**8. Customers too!** Consider putting a modified emergency-preparedness plan in the packet of information you share with your puppy buyers. Most pet owners have not given sufficient thought to this matter. In addition to having food, medications, a leash, a collar and a travel crate on hand at all times, they should also know what hotels in their area take pets.