

Provide Funding, Resources and Support for Pet Families in Emergency Planning

Overview

Pets Canada is calling on the federal government to guarantee funding and logistical support in all emergency plans including the National Adaptation Strategy for pets and pet owners. This inclusion would ensure that resources are available for emergency evacuation and care for pets during natural disasters, strengthening community resilience and public safety.

Background:

- Climate change is increasing the frequency and intensity of natural disasters, such as floods, wildfires, and hurricanes. Canada has faced record-breaking wildfire seasons in both 2023 and 2025, underscoring the urgent need for pet-inclusive emergency planning.
- Currently, many municipalities are not equipped with the resources or plans to safely evacuate and care for pets during emergencies. That is why it is critical for federal leadership and support to provide the resources necessary for effective evacuation systems.



Why Include Pets?



- 1. Support Public Safety:** Emergency measures that include pets and guarantee acceptance for pets at emergency shelters, hotels, and transportation services, reduce the risk of owners refusing to evacuate or returning to dangerous areas to rescue their pets. This helps protect human lives and ensures a more orderly response to disasters.
- 2. Improve Community Preparedness and Resilience:** Pets are often considered family members and including them in emergency planning improves the overall community resilience. People are most likely to evacuate when they know their pets will be safe, reducing the risk of human casualties and ensuring a smooth evacuation process.
- 3. Reduce Emergency Response Costs:** Including pets in emergency plans and allocating appropriate resources will help prevent significant expenditures on rescue operations, reduce post-disaster recovery costs, and minimize the emotional toll on affected communities. Communities without pet-inclusive plans often face higher financial burdens due to last-minute rescues and increased animal shelter intake.



Call to Action

- Pets Canada urges MPs to support legislation and amendments that provide funding and logistical resources directed towards supporting pets and pet owners during emergency situations. This includes requiring emergency shelters, hotels, and transportation services in evacuation areas to automatically accept pets and include pets in the National Adaptation Strategy with pet-inclusive response measures.
- Pets Canada encourages collaboration with Public Safety Canada to develop guidelines and funding opportunities for municipalities to incorporate pets into emergency preparedness strategies.

Supporting Data

- Research from the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health shows that pet-inclusive emergency plans increase compliance with evacuation orders and reduce disaster-related casualties.
- In the U.S., the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards (PETS) Act has been effective in ensuring pets are included in emergency planning, reducing the overall impact of disasters on communities. Canada does not have comparable measures to support emergency management and safety.

Potential Impact

Including pets in emergency evacuation and preparedness plans would enhance community resilience, save lives, reduce emergency response costs, and align Canada with international best practices for disaster management.



Pets Canada is the not-for-profit, member-based voice of the Canadian pet industry. Pets Canada acts as a credible source of information for pet related businesses, and collaborates with Canadian lawmakers so legislation is beneficial for pets, pet parents, and the pet industry.

For more information on our work, please visit our website at www.petscanada.org
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