Your Pet’s Emergency Kit Checklist

By Laura McLain Madsen, DVM

☐ Dry food packed in labeled, zip-top bags and/or
☐ Canned pet food (check expiration date on can)
☐ Can opener, if needed
☐ Hay/grain for horses or other livestock
☐ Water – One gallon per pet per day for dogs and cats
☐ Important papers
  o Description of animal
    ▪ Name
    ▪ Species
    ▪ Breed
    ▪ Color
    ▪ Sex
    ▪ Age
    ▪ Distinguishing features
  o Proof of vaccinations
  o Proof of Coggin’s test for horses
  o Registration and licensing papers
  o List of possible emergency shelters within 50-mile radius
    ▪ Animal shelters
    ▪ Boarding facilities
    ▪ Equestrian centers
    ▪ Stables
    ▪ Pet-friendly hotels
  o Current photos
    ▪ Front and back of each animal in good lighting
    ▪ Photo of family member(s) with pet to establish ownership
☐ Bedding, towels, blankets
☐ Bowls for food and water
☐ Cage, carrier or kennel for each pet
☐ Litter and litter box
☐ Trash bags
☐ Paper towels
☐ Muzzle (Even gentle pets can become aggressive if they are stressed or in pain. Soft, cloth muzzles are available at pet stores.)
☐ Brushes for long-haired pets
☐ Leash
☐ Extra collar, harness
☐ First aid kit
  o Bandage material and non-stick wound dressings
  o Scissors
  o Claw clippers
  o Styptic powder
  o Diphenhydramine for allergic reactions (liquid or tablets).
  o Eye wash (Sterile saline, not contact lens solution.)
  o Cortisone cream
  o Triple antibiotic cream
  o Syringe with both tsp and ml markings
  o Hydrogen peroxide
  o Any current prescription medications
  o Probiotic, such as Lactobacillus
  o Pepto Bismol for diarrhea
  o Meclizine for motion sickness
  o Flea/tick preventative medication
☐ For horses and larger animals:
  o Hoof care tools
  o Fly spray
  o Halter
  o Lead ropes
  o Pans
  o Buckets
  o Twitch
  o Leg wraps
☐ ID for your pet
  o Tags on collars for dogs and cats
  o Tags on halter for horses and other large animals
  o Microchip
  o Ear tags for cattle, which also utilize RFID technology
  o Permanent marker on shell or scales of turtle or other reptiles
  o Spray paint on hooves of large animals
  o Leg bands on birds
  o Tattoos
  o Brands for large animals