

Health management and training

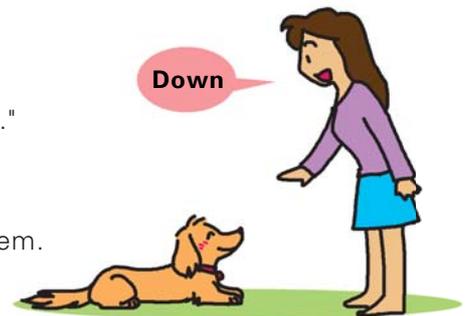
Disasters are a stressful time for people and animals alike. Unfamiliar living conditions can have an adverse effect on health.

Make sure to pay attention to your pet's health and keep them clean. Also make sure that they are properly immunized and are free of lice and other external parasites.

Make sure to train your pet so that they are used to staying in a carrying bag or cage, so they do not bark or make noise unnecessarily, and so they are friendly to other people. These steps will help reduce the stress on your pet, so they are as much for your pet as they are for other people.

DOGS

- Can follow basic commands such as "Wait," "Sit," and "Down."
- Does not resist going into its cage.
- Does not bark unnecessarily.
- Does not fear other people or become aggressive toward them.
- Eliminates in designated areas.
- Has received rabies shots and vaccination.
- Has undergone prevention or treatment for heartworms and other parasites.



CATS

- Does not resist going into its cage or carrying bag.
- Does not fear people or other animals.
- Eliminates in a cat litter box.
- Has been properly vaccinated
- Has undergone prevention or treatment for parasites.



Familiarizing your pet with its cage

Let your pet get used to your day-to-day routine so that it will be comfortable staying in its cage quietly. It will be much easier for your pet to remain calm in a familiar cage, even in the unfamiliar environment of an evacuation shelter. This will make things much easier for you as well. This habit can also be useful in everyday life, for example, when you have to leave your pet alone at home, when you have guests, or when you travel by car.

- Leave the cage open regularly so that your pet can use it as a resting place.
- Praise your pet when you see it relaxing inside its cage.
- Make sure that the cage is associated with pleasant experiences by giving your pet treats or meals in the cage.
- Make sure that the cage is not associated with unpleasant experiences, such as visits to the vet, or by using it as a place to detain your pet for "time out."
- Make sure the cage is large enough for your pet to lie down in, but not too large or too small.
- A cage made of stiffer material provides better safety than one made of softer material.
- Your pet will have a familiar space to stay in and this can help reduce stress.
- By making the cage a safe place for your pet, it may voluntarily take refuge in it when disaster strikes.

