

2. Actions to take if and when disaster strikes

People's safety comes first.

Ensure your own safety. Stay calm and then take actions to protect yourself and your pet.

Earthquakes

The main shaking of an earthquake usually lasts for only a short time, so protect your head with cushions, magazines, or other items. Once the shaking stops, turn off any flames in your house, and open your front door to secure an evacuation route.



Your pet's safety

Disasters can cause animals to panic and become agitated so be careful not to be bitten when you extend your hand to care for them. If you are upset, your pet will notice. So stay calm, and calm your pet down by speaking to it as you normally would. Leash your dog and place your cat in a familiar cage.

Stay calm when you prepare to evacuate

Get out your emergency pack, and turn off the main on your electrical panel and your main gas valve. When you evacuate, you are expected to practice "**accompanied evacuation**" (*doko hinan*) as the owner of your pet.

Accompanied evacuation refers to the act of safely evacuating, with your pet, to your evacuation shelter in the event of a disaster.

DOGS

- Leash your dog and make sure its collar is not loose.
- With smaller dogs, you can leash it and then place it in a carrying bag.

CATS

- Place your cat in a carrying bag or cage.
- Tape carrying bag flaps with cloth packing tape to keep your cat from escaping.

Evacuating to the shelter

Follow evacuation instructions and take your pet with you. People and animals may be upset and behave differently from usual. Hold your pet's leash tightly, hold your carrying bag closely (secure its flaps with cloth packing tape so that they do not open), and remain mindful of your pet's safety.

You may encounter hazards such as toppled buildings or downed power lines on the way to your evacuation shelter. Stay calm and watch where you step and look out for falling objects.

