

# Cat Preparedness Informational Seminar

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# Is your entire family prepared?

## How does your family prepare for emergencies?

- Emergency planning for families – including fur-family members!

## Who are your neighborhood felines?

- Companion cats
- Working cats / barn cats
- Community / feral cats



# Feline Emergency Planning



**Silas – 12yr old domestic short hair**

# Feline Emergency Planning

## Considering health / behavior effects of stressful events

- Physical injury
- Acute stress injury
- Negative emotional experience



**Silas – 12yr old  
domestic short hair**

# Feline Emergency Planning

## Considering health / behavior effects of stressful events

- Changes in environment
- Changes in health status
- Changes in family-unit / stress



**Silas – 12yr old  
domestic short hair**

# Feline Emergency Planning

**Evaluate individual for your family's feline:**

- Evacuation / sheltering options



# Feline Emergency Planning

**Evaluate individual for your family's feline:**

- Medical health status
  - Vaccinations appropriate for lifestyle / evacuation options
  - Baseline diagnostics (needle-free options)



# Feline Emergency Planning

**Evaluate individual for your family's feline:**

- Emotional health status
  - Creating resiliency
  - Teaching communication cues





# Notification Plan – Stay Informed

What's your communication / notification plan?

- Sign up for [BoCo Alerts](#)
- Community-based pet evacuation - [Pet Help & Rescue](#) App



**Pet Help & Rescue** 17+

A neighbors-based rescue app

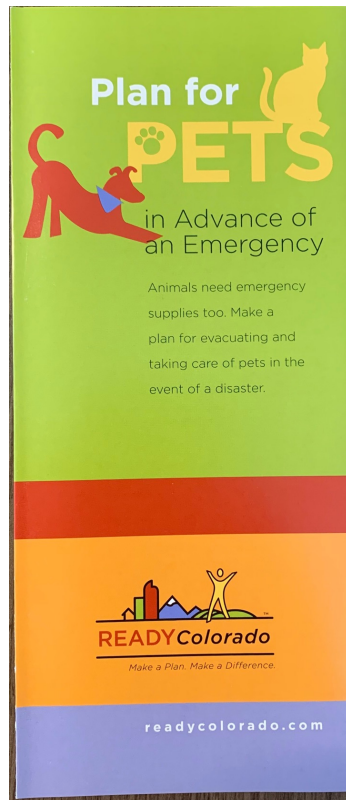
[Animal Watch](#)

Designed for iPhone

Free

# GrabLists & GoBags

See your handout!



## Questions & Answers About READY Pets

You should always plan to evacuate with your pets. Pack a kit to sustain yourself, family members and pets for at least 72 hours, and remember to rotate kit stock often.

**Why is it important to have a plan for both people and pets?**  
Pet owners have additional challenges when an evacuation is required, and share a natural instinct to not leave pets behind. Personal, community and state plans to support animal evacuation and sheltering are essential in protecting both people and pets.

**Who is responsible for your pets?**  
You are the person responsible for your pets.

**Where can I take pets if I'm evacuated?**  
Make a list of friends and family who would be willing to take your pets on a temporary basis. Other locations include veterinary hospitals, boarding kennels and public evacuation shelters. Some hotels allow pets (www.petswelcome.com).

**Can my pet stay with me if I go to a public evacuation shelter?**  
Pet owners should evacuate with their animals whenever possible. Many communities are working on plans to co-locate temporary emergency animal shelters near public evacuation shelters. This means that in some cases, depending on resource availability, animals would be staying near their owners, but not sharing the same space. Owners may be expected to help care for their animals at such shelters. Depending on circumstances, it may be more feasible for the community to shelter pets at local animal facilities, such as animal shelters, kennels or veterinary hospitals.

**What if I have a service animal?**  
Service animals are animals that provide assistance for a medical disability. They are not considered to be pets and will be allowed to stay with their owners.

**What if I'm not at home when my area is evacuated?**  
■ Create a "buddy plan" with nearby relatives, friends or neighbors to help each other with animal evacuation. Make sure your "buddy" has written permission to care for your animals and access to your pet emergency kit and kennels.  
■ If you need assistance with pet evacuation you may contact the local animal control agency or humane society to request evacuation assistance for your pets as soon as possible.

**How should I prepare my pets?**  
■ Place a clearly visible window sticker to indicate the type and number of pets. Make sure to keep this up to date as inaccurate information could endanger fire/emergency personnel.  
■ Keep pets up to date on preventive healthcare.  
■ Keep copies of all vaccination/health records.  
■ Record contact information for your veterinarian.  
■ Identify your pets:  
    - Microchip implantation is an excellent way to identify pets, but make sure the chip is registered to your current address.  
    - Photographs of you with your pet.  
    - Collars or harnesses with identification tags.  
■ Give copies of essential identification information to someone out of the area.

**How should I transport my pets?**  
Have one airline kennel or cage per pet. Mark the kennel with your name, address, phone and an alternate contact. Make sure kennels are large enough to allow your pet to stand up and turn around, and to accommodate the pet and food and water bowls. Familiarize your pets with sleeping in the kennel/cage. Kennels for cats should be large enough to accommodate a small litter box. Pillow cases will work for transporting cats in an emergency.

**What if I have pets other than dogs and cats?**  
Pets such as rabbits, rodents, ferrets, hedgehogs, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and others will have specific needs. Make sure you have appropriate travel cages, bedding, special foods, along with environmental controls for those pets needing special heat and humidity conditions.

## READY Pets CHECKLIST

- Pet food and water for at least three days
- Can opener, spoons
- Treats
- Medications
- Copies of up-to-date vaccination records
- Collars with tags and/or microchip information
- Photos of you with your pet (both digital and paper)
- Current sticker on house window with pet list for fire/emergency personnel
- Bowls
- Cat litter and litter pan
- Poop scooper
- Pet first aid kit
- Bedding
- Toys
- Leashes or harnesses
- Muzzle (if needed)
- Leather gloves and towels (for handling upset pets)
- Grooming supplies
- Paper towels, plastic trash bags and a bottle of spray cleaner/disinfectant
- Alcohol based hand sanitizer
- List of important animal emergency contacts (animal control, animal shelter, veterinarians, etc.)
- Other (add your unique items to the list)

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# GrabLists & GoBags

What's does your feline unique need....?

**My READY Pets Important Info**

Keep this form in your family preparedness kit.

**Emergency Contacts**

Veterinarian.....  
Animal Control.....  
Owner's Cell Phone.....  
Owner's Work Phone.....

**Evacuation Plan Details**

1.....  
2.....  
3.....  
4.....

**Pet Shelter Options**

Local Animal Shelter.....  
Friends & Family.....  
Pet Friendly Hotels.....

**Neighbors & Friends with Pet Care Permission**

.....  
.....  
.....

**Out of Town Contact with Pet Information**

Name.....  
Phone.....  
E-mail.....  
Relationship.....

**For more information**

**Colorado Veterinary Medical Foundation**  
[www.cvma.org](http://www.cvma.org)

**Colorado State Animal Response Team**  
[www.cosart.org](http://www.cosart.org)

**READYColorado**  
[www.readycolorado.com](http://www.readycolorado.com)

**American Veterinary Medical Association**  
[www.avma.org/disaster/default.asp](http://www.avma.org/disaster/default.asp)

**Pet Friendly Hotels**  
[www.petswelcome.com](http://www.petswelcome.com)

**Department of Homeland Security Pet Preparedness**  
[www.ready.gov/america/getakit/pets.html](http://www.ready.gov/america/getakit/pets.html)

**American Red Cross Mile-High Chapter**  
[www.denver-redcross.org](http://www.denver-redcross.org)

**CSU Extension**  
<http://coloradodisasterhelp.colostate.edu>

**READYColorado**  
Make a Plan. Make a Difference.

**American Red Cross**  
Mile High Chapter  
[denver-redcross.org](http://denver-redcross.org)

**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY**  
[colorado.gov/homelandsecurity](http://colorado.gov/homelandsecurity)

**Colorado Veterinary Medical Foundation**  
[colovma.org](http://colovma.org)

**COLORADO citizen corps**  
[citizencorps.gov](http://citizencorps.gov)

[readycolorado.com](http://readycolorado.com)

**Plan for PETS**  
in Advance of an Emergency

Animals need emergency supplies too. Make a plan for evacuating and taking care of pets in the event of a disaster.

**READYColorado**  
Make a Plan. Make a Difference.

[readycolorado.com](http://readycolorado.com)

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Friends & Family.....  
Pet Friendly Hotels.....  
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### Neighbors & Friends with Pet Care Permission

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### Out of Town Contact with Pet Information

Name.....  
Phone.....

# Feline Mental Health & Wellbeing

**Make sure your feline understands what's happening...**

- Consent-based care / cooperative care
- Less-is-often-more
- Prior training creates resiliency

# Feline Mental Health & Wellbeing

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*Communication Cues for low-stress handling*

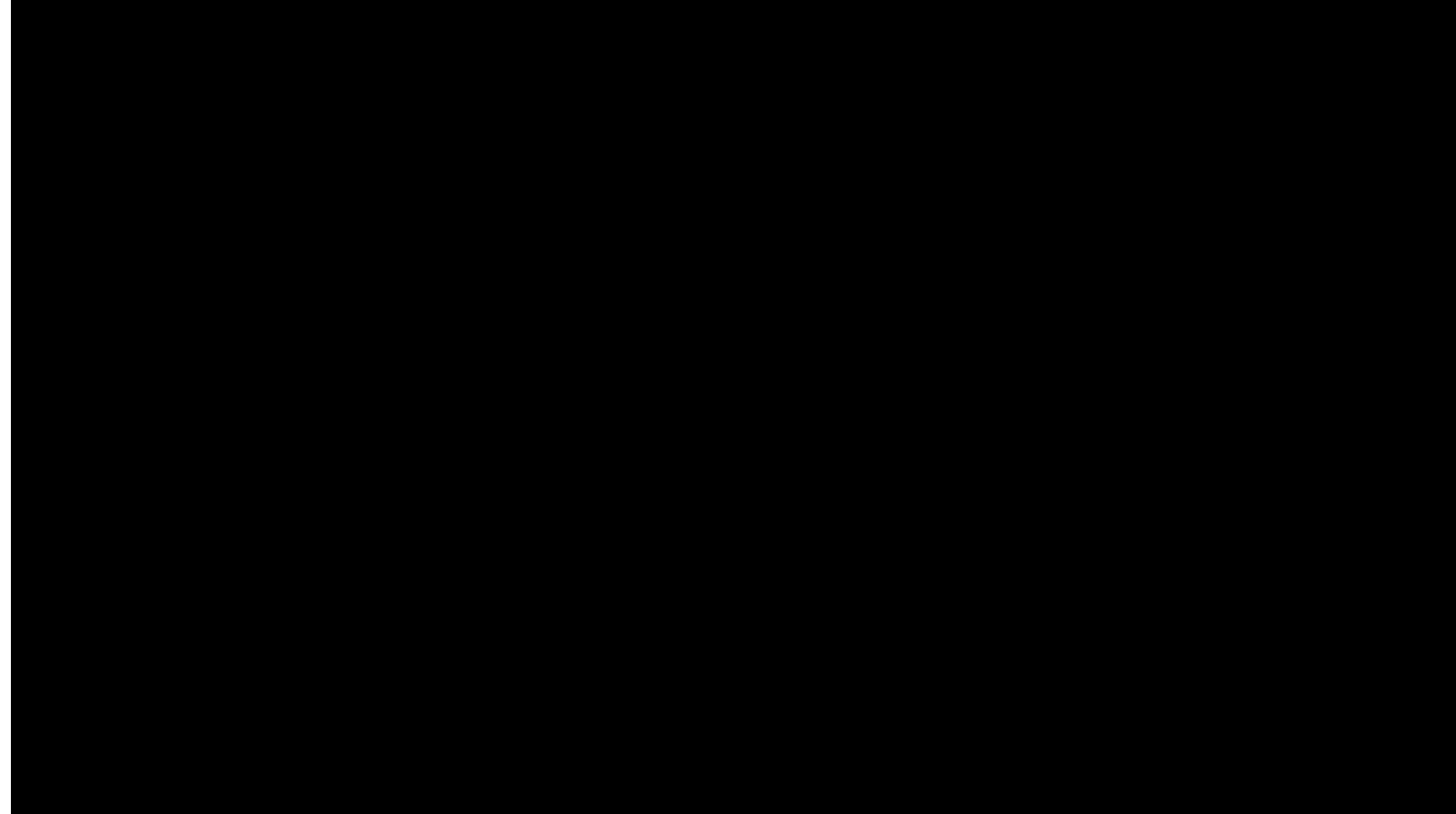
# Communication Cues

## Practice behaviors that help your cat be prepared

- Handling / Body touch sensitivity
- Crating
  - Loading / unloading into kennel
  - Calm kennel stay
- Recalls
- Medical restraint
- Medical cooperative care

# Communication Cues

**“Get-in”**





# Communication Cues

## “Body Touch Training”



# Cooperative Care & Consent

## **Iatrogenic emotional trauma & long term health consequences**

- Inability to provide timely, adequate medical care
- Early euthanasia decisions
- Injury to Human-Animal Bond
- Moral injury to veterinary professionals

## **Public health risk from animal behavioral disease**

# After-Event Recovery Care

Stressful events can be exhausting for everyone... **Including your feline.**

**After a stressful event,**

Monitor your cat for subtle signs of health dysregulation

- Increased lethargy or hiding
- Over or under grooming
- Changes in behavior, more aggressive, more clingy

# After-Event Recovery Care

Stressful events can be exhausting for everyone... **Including your feline.**

- Monitor your cat's health with **journaling, low-stress medical evaluation.**
- **Raise any concerns** with your feline's veterinary health care team.



# Prevent & Repair

**Prevent event-associated stress** by teaching resiliency and preparing for stressors

# Prevent & Repair

Repair injuries – **physical and emotional** – with modalities such as:

- Encouraging play and interaction
- Diet and supplement support for GI and immune health
- Endocannabinoid system support
- Massage and acupuncture
- Resilient mental health across the entire family-unit

# Prevent & Repair

Foster homes for animals evacuated / affected by disaster

- Can you offer a quiet home environment for a feline to recuperate
- Could you provide minimal medical care?

# Prevent & Repair

Sitting with Animals – Skills for Creating Calm with a Non-Intrusive Presence

- Could you sit quietly with an animal in a shelter to help create a space of calm?
- Can you offer a non-intrusive presence for a unsettled animal in a shelter?

May 18<sup>th</sup>

- 11a Lecture
- 1-4p workshop



# Thank You!

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- Branch Director / Veterinarian, Front Range vMR