

HOW TO SAVE YOUR PET FROM A DISASTER

THE Emergency Preparedness Guide
to Protect Your Feathered Friends
and Fur Babies

Scott M. Haskins
Diane Stevenett
International Book Award Winners



How to Save Your Pet from a Disaster

THE emergency preparedness guide to protect your feathered friends
and fur babies

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*Stressed out pets can act weird...
or maybe that's normal for your cat?*

Dedication

*Deep, soulful, eternal love changes everything!
Scott and Diana forever!!*



Diana and Mimzy. They take good care of each other.

Virginia, Ryan and Cheryl, Francesca, Preston and Alisha, James and Deborah, Andrew, Jordan and Kemmer, Maya, Ashby, Gabriel, Zoie, Elijah, Ethan, London, Ezra, Avery, Adeline, Zion, and Aspen, plus whoever still will bless our family with your arrival and love. All I hope and pray for is your happiness, filled with love and light. I dedicate this book to help with that.

To **Raymond Aaron**, my deepest appreciation for the inspiration to get the idea for this book into print, and for your unsuppressed positive energy and for sharing your knowledge. Wow, Wow, Wow!!! You are great!!

Thank you, **Robert Kiyosaki**, for putting me on the path of focusing and caring about my financial IQ. It has been a game changer.

Many thanks to the Coronavirus (Covid-19) for the time and focus to finish this book and be in constant contact (remotely) with the many wonderful people who supported me (see Acknowledgements).

Foreword

I first met Scott Haskins in 2018, when we spoke on the same program in Salt Lake City. I was impressed by his amazing and compelling content, his depth of expertise, and his animated and entertaining presentation of his *Save Your Stuff* series, in regard to our treasured family photos, heirlooms and collectibles... along with our pets, all high energy, positive things in our lives that we can't insure against loss and damage.

But then I learned that Diane Stevenett, famed Canadian opera star and renowned sculptor, was also a conservation technician on Scott's disaster response team. She is also a pet care expert and is part of this dynamic duo author team.

Don't underestimate the emotional power and stability you gain in knowing you're ready and prepared for the inevitable, and that your pet is protected.

If you are a Human Resource professional, this information probably folds neatly into your company's mission statement, and the corporate culture of emotional resilience in your employees. Make this book's message a part of your employee and public outreach resource efforts. This level of personal emotional preparedness will help you engage more positive attitudes, and get your company back up and running faster after an emergency.

If you are a pet owner, this book is a "Must Read!" because you know how the care of pets pulls so forcefully on your heartstrings.

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There is no other book, as complete and authoritative, on this essential subject in the pet industry. I highly recommend it! Gift one today!

Raymond Aaron
New York Times Bestselling Author



Raymond Aaron with Scott Haskins in Salt Lake City

Acknowledgements

My mentor, 2X Chicken Soup For The Soul author, **Raymond Aaron**, always says, *“Gratitude is the rent you pay for living on earth.”* I deeply believe in the value of gratitude, so here goes, and I’m putting my heart into it...



Raymond Aaron

My wife, **Diana Saavedra Haskins**, is the best! And of all her endless list of enviable, amazing, incredible attributes, her sensitivities for animals is one of her most endearing.

Virginia, Ryan and Cheryl, Francesca, Preston and Alisha, James and Deborah, Andrew, Jordan and Kemmer, born into our family or added, are all my sons and daughters (so far). God has gifted me greatly, and I acknowledge my rich blessings.

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Maya, Ashby, Gabriel, Zoie, Elijah, Ethan, London, Ezra, Avery, Adeline, Zion, and Aspen are the grandkids who have arrived to us at this point, and are so deeply loved by family, both here and in the spiritual realm. I pray that the angels are working overtime to protect them and acknowledge the light these brilliant grandchildren all bring into our family.

They've moved on to the next phase of life, but my **mom and dad** deserve to have everyone remember that they are worth hero status for bringing their best game to our family. Dear sweet mother, **Lois Haskins**, also has come to be an eternal part of our love and promises, for which I acknowledge and thank her with all my heart. Lois' daughter, **Nancy Palmer-Forgay**, is AMAZING and courageous, and chooses to transmit to others her insuppressible positive attitude through the worst of times—WOW!! I'm grateful and a better person for knowing her and her wonderful kids. **Jonathan Palmer** and his super-sweet and energetic wife **Claudia** are great examples of solid people, solid faith, love and entrepreneurship. I'm dazzled by their ambitions and goals.

I acknowledge and bow down with gratitude to the giving brilliance and amazingness in many inspiring areas of life, faith, and smarts of my sister, **Beth Sand**; the servant's attitude and sacrifice that my super-talented, faith-filled additional sister **Lynne Baker** lovingly shares with all around her (you've GOT to get some of her just-baked bread!); my really talented corporate brother, **Jim Haskins**, who has a creative entrepreneurial mind that changes the world; and his sweet wife, **Xiaoyan Zhang**, who proves that love has no bounds.

I'm very blessed to have some nieces and nephews who are truly remarkable, outstanding examples of exceptional people, and who are supportive and great examples to me, as are **Larry and Trine Krueger, Krissy and Zack Collings**, and sweet/smart/amazing/deserving/fabulous **Amiya Krueger**. I also mention the brilliant and handsome **Adam Haskins**; the *sooo great* **Donny Sand**, of whom I cannot get

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enough, and his most amazing wife and love; **Donna; Natalie and Dowel King**, with whom anyone would love to sit and talk to for hours and be best friends with; the adorable Hedge Witch, **Sara Van Dyke**, and **Megan and Eric Sanderson**—again, solid loveable people—and the insuppressible and wonderful, **Kami Gunn**.

I love my mother-in-law, **Nancy Mahrle**. And I am deeply grateful for her patient and creative husband, **Ben Mahrle**, whom I consider a mentor, and esteem both their exemplary attitudes and efforts to be at the top of their game, getting better all the time.

I am beyond grateful for my generous, intelligent, personal assistant and office manager, **Gena Dillon**, who is AMAZING! I'd have to go on for a couple of pages, but obviously, her efforts make it possible for me to develop business ideas. I am deeply grateful for my long, working relationship with **Virginia Panizzon** and **Oriana Montemurro**, who are the foundation and professionals that keep the fuel in the tank at Fine Art Conservation Laboratories. Their attention to detail and quality of work is a great example to the entire art conservation profession. **Danielle Masters**, when she arrived to work with us, was a gift from heaven with her ready smile and ready-to-work professional attitude with framing; and as part of our disaster response team, **Andrew Jacobs** has been thoroughly enjoyable to work with, and I am grateful for his efforts to help develop and implement disaster response strategies. **Denver Dillon**, new to our ranks, is anticipated to be a totally positive influence, and we all enjoy working with him very much.

Thanks to **Dave Fraidenburg** of Fraidenburg and Associates, my accountant, for his quality professional help and warm friendship in all that we've been through.

There are so many people in the Global Information Network to whom I am grateful for their giving natures and their positive energy, which lit me up in a time of a dark mental and emotional assault. The

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connecting of the dots in the structured sequential educational system of mental fortitude, put together with the genius and guidance of **Kevin Trudeau**, reopened up my mind to the possibilities. I have great esteem for the active heartfelt outreach of **Dr. Tom Morter**, **Blaine Athorn**, and the constant quality care of **Lisa Larson** and **Lisa Monchunski**. Many thanks for the inspirational teaching of **Dr. Ted Morter**. There are so many people to mention in GIN, whom I thank and feel esteem for.

I greatly appreciate **Wright Thurston** for his friendship, faith, inspirational life, and integrity, and for introducing me to his friend **Raymond Aaron** who has become my book mentor and inspiration to get this book “out there” with his example, great knowledge base and positive energy. Warmest thanks to both of them for their enthusiasm for our Save Your Pet message.

I’m excited, appreciative and grateful for **Paul O’Mahony**, who is upping my “game,” knowledge and business strategies with Social Media Marketing and ReThink. It’s a very strategic approach in a fear-saturated business world.

I have to acknowledge the genius of Merlin Holmes in affiliate marketing and email marketing, with integrity, ethics, and a positive attitude and energy... and a concern for people. Wow!

I also want to recognize how I’ve been inspired by **Jack Canfield**, by the quality of his approach and ability to share.

I am also appreciative and inspired in the personal progress field, by **John Gray**, author of *Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus*, for his message, inspiration, and enthusiasm for our Save Your Pet message. Thank you!

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foreword in *Save Your Stuff in the Workplace*, and for the quality example of a great guy that he is. Morgan James Publishing, NY was involved with that book, and **David Hancock** was so supportive, friendly, and a great example of a quality person.

Tom Antion, Internet guru, may have saved my art conservation business with his training in web strategies (which resulted in many \$100,000's of work) starting in 2008, and whose business strategies still "bring it in." He still remains a source, a friend, and an example of an amazing and inspirational business coach. Heartfelt thanks, Tom. BTW, Tom's a nut when it comes to Bichon Frises, and he also had a mega-trained security shepherd that watched his back. He's quite a guy!



Take good care of them. They take care of you with love and security.

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Garrett Gunderson at Wealth Factory is quickly warming up to be my new best friend, and I am grateful for his insights, strategies and mentoring. Wow!!!

I'm grateful to a warm, inspirational "brother" **Bill Heath** who has locked arms with me to reach out to serve our community in faith and love. Along with Bill, I feel blessed and fortunate to have a consistent example of integrity and service from friends **Stephen Record** and his wife **Linda**, whom I consider my mentors. **Jon Paulson's** service to our church community is a blessing to all, and we all feel the positive energy of synergistically reaching out to present a remote course on self-reliance and emotional resilience, which is truly inspired.

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Sue Castillo is truly a sensational person. She's an inspirational animal care giver (groomer and more). She's our soulful companion, compassionate, witty... wow!!!

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I want to recognize **Kevin Painter**, for his quality service to our country in the Navy. If all our men in the armed forces were like him, we would have world peace. AND, he loves dogs. Respect!

Penny Spackman married our good friend **Hugh Spackman** and came to town with her loveable dog, and we all immediately fell in love with her. Thank you for moving to our town and coming into our lives!

Marilene Lamb is our Brazilian connection, whom we love, adore, and thank for her love of animals, and for all she and her great husband, **Darrel**, do in our community. What a totally interesting couple!

Debbie Snarr loves cats, and we love Debbie and her cats. Thank you, Debbie, for being a kind, smiling person to love. And her husband **Larry** is a true brother, friend, and great example.

Theresa Thornberg is the lady with the million-dollar smile, and great dogs over the years. Thank you so much for yours and **David's** friendship over the years.

Cassandra and Eric Durtschi have such a dynamic, fun, faith-filled family, and dogs (and more) are always in the mix! So fun to know!

Gena and Denver Dillon get mentioned again because of their rabid love for animals, for being good “fur baby” parents, and for how that good energy influence spreads to all around them.

Jordan and Kemmer Bishop connect very closely with dogs and horses—a big change from growing up, for Jordan. It's a choice to love animals, but it's easier when you marry your muse and eternal love, and the sweetest, smartest cowgirl on the planet. BTW, **Kemmer** drew a really great, high- quality portrait of our dog that passed. It's an instant family heirloom.

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Preston and Alisha are raising two of the sweetest girls on the planet, with Cloe, the super-model dog. What a dear, dear family!

Ryan and Cheryl Bishop are so kind and community-minded, with an amazing love for those around them, both furry and human. Their support is cherished.

Christy Harter became one of our family when she loved our dogs with so much heart. Everyone in the world wants a dog sitter like her... BUT YOU CAN'T HAVE HER!!!!

Mary Reese-Upton is who **Christy Harter** gets a lot of her qualities from, and we appreciate and love her for her back-up and dog-sitting service. Thank you!

Nancy and Ben Mahrle are all about animals and room to roam in Colorado and Wyoming. We appreciate all you do for us, and for keeping us in your thoughts. Love you!

Kimberly Dutto, with two Yorkies, is the fashion icon for style, and so much fun! We feel so lucky to be connected.

Gilbert and Kim Saavedra can't have too many dogs, such is the size of their hearts! Your love for them, and your stories, are heart-warming, and we appreciate you!

Ethan and Elijah Ruggieri have been babysitting a huge English bulldog... for years, full time, as its owner is serving our country. What a beautiful thing.

Based on years of responding to disasters with disaster response companies and insurance companies, **CHUBB** has proven to take care of their clients/insured the best. We are always pleased to be called upon to be their art, antiques and collectibles experts in a claim.

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Elizabeth Stewart, Santa Barbara radio host and appraiser, has interviewed me on her show at least a couple of times, and we always have so much fun. In fact, she is all about being happy, and uplifts everyone she meets. I love being around her just to feel her positive energy. Thanks for all you do.

PBS's **Brad Pomerance** (television host and executive producer at Empire KVCR, and co-producer), and **CJ Eastman** (co-executive producer at KVCR TV), did a special on our passionate work with the Mission Inn in Riverside, CA, and was so much fun. Their great community spirit was contagious, and we loved the experience of doing the show, "Uncovered in the Archives," with them. They are real pros.



Richard Poole's Vaunkar

Tyrell Leger runs the best, most caring, and highest energy dog grooming business, far and wide. We've tried several, and finally found The Little Dog House, and for many years now, we won't go anywhere else. Many thanks, Tyrell, for our peace of mind.

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Dr. Brand and **Dr. Quinn** at the Goleta Airport Animal Hospital are kind and caring vets, whom we trust with our fur babies. We feel lucky to have found you. Thank you!!

We've appreciated the excellent emergency veterinarian services of **Dr. Andrea Wells'** well-run facility, **Advanced Veterinary Specialists**, in Santa Barbara, CA. They've helped us to breathe easy several times, when our pets needed help after-hours. Thank you!!

And **Dr. Dawson** at San Roque Animal Hospital receives our gratitude and recognition for the caring service we have been in need of in the past. Thank you!

Gloria, the manager of PetSmart, in Goleta, CA, and the very nice employees, make this corporate store feel like a caring, fun, small-town place, where we like to go. You are doing great; thanks!

I'd also like to give a shout-out to our really wonderful neighbors, **John Dickson, Sharon** and Jimmy. You couldn't ask for finer people next door, and I'm acknowledging their wonderfulness. John runs the SantaBarbara.com website, which offers SO MUCH support to the community.

Larry and Carol Parsons are the great neighbors on the other side. We are so lucky! We've had them over for a wedding, BBQs... actually, I wish we did more together; we enjoy them so much. Larry's service on the HOA board is very much appreciated.

I applaud loudly the quality person and life that our friend **John Whalley** shares as an executive for human resource benefits and services in a way that touches so many lives. He, obviously, is concerned with the emotional well-being of the human family. And it shows in his commitment, and super fun attitude, to his own family. He is a great example.

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I also want everyone to know of my esteem and heartfelt gratitude to **Dave Valdez**, a man of such generosity and service in our community that it's hard to keep up with him. The world is a better place, and my family is better and more secure because of his integrity and determination to do what's right... and he loves two dogs and a cat on top of it all.

Marvin Collins's enthusiasm and life experiences are mind-spinning. You can sit and talk with people like this for days, and they enrich the lives and work of all they connect with. The Richmond Museum of History is fortunate to have him on the board, and I appreciate his community service. Equally enthusiastic about this community center, my thanks goes to the highly capable **Melinda McCrary**, Executive Director.

I've always had an enthusiastic feeling towards the Rotary Club, perhaps because my dad was a part of it. I'm thankful for all they do for our communities. I've appreciated the opportunity to speak about the Save Your Stuff message and the interesting art restoration project, to groups through **Terry and Paula Trotter** in Carmel, to the group in Santa Barbara, and through **Charlie Barr** in Laguna Beach. In fact, my heartfelt thanks goes to Charlie for his enthusiastic support and his quality community spirit, and for his enthusiasm for all we do at Fine Art Conservation Laboratories.

Sandi Nicholson has been an inspiration to many, especially regarding women's issues and art. I acknowledge her great spirit and warm manner.

A wonderful world citizen and expert in saving, preserving, and restoring Buddhist artifacts and religious objects, and who does so much to help Tibetan monasteries know how to care for their treasures, is **Ann Shaftel** in Nova Scotia. I'm sure her gentile spirit extends to her animals.

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I express admiration for **Craig Deller**, for his consistent efforts on social media to create a meaningful community, and for all that he does to preserve and maintain cultural property.



Marabella the Socialite

Regarding disaster response services (house fires, water damage, and more), my company has worked with numerous **ServiceMaster** franchises—in Santa Barbara/Goleta, throughout the Los Angeles area, Las Vegas, and Salt Lake City—and we enjoy our association with the company very much. We are proud to be part of their team and to be called upon to be their art, antiques, and collectibles experts.

Recognition and thanks also to **Marilyn McMahon**, News-Press staff writer, for the great job she always does.

Kristopher Gee from Spectrum News 1 also did accurate and entertaining reporting on me, on a mural restoration project in Hollywood. Thanks for your quality work that helps to protect our heritage.

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I always enjoy connecting with reporter **Alexxa Gotthardt** who always does a quality job of reporting and photographing. High praise!

Julie Rose from BYU Radio provides imaginative and accurate hosting and interviewing, which in my experience, is first class. Thanks for your positive influence in the community.

Ileana Najarro at the Houston Chronicle recently did an exceptional job on reporting a heritage preservation issue I was involved with. Thank you for your quality work.

Seen by millions, **Rita Cook** did a marvelous job covering our preservation and restoration work on the longest mural in the USA, in Grand Prairie, Dallas, Texas, and did a great job.

Bryan Cooke, owner of Cooke's Fine Art Handling, Shipping and Storage, has been a business associate but also a friend over decades, and I highly esteem his quality business ethics and his generous attitude towards all those that associate with him. He's a good example to anyone that has the pleasure to be around him... and I love doing business with him and his team.

My wife and I must publicly thank **Carrie Sawyer**, who breeds Yorkies, and from whom we bought three fur babies that enriched our family life greatly. She wraps her heart up in her work, and she was so wonderful to connect with.

I have to mention how much I appreciate and esteem the great work that **Dr. Monica Orozco** is doing as the Executive Director at the Santa Barbara Mission, CA. Her care for the archive's collection, her proactive quality efforts for the art, and her genuine concern for the community's concerns is heartwarming and a great example. I can't say enough about how much we enjoy working with her to accomplish the purposes and goals of her office.

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Likewise, I am in awe of the enthusiasm and leadership of **Mechelle Lawrence Adams**, Executive Director at Mission San Juan Capistrano, CA. Her positive attitude is contagious as she uplifts all who associate with her. Likewise, a proactive force for good, who blesses the collection at the Mission, and the activities of the Friends of the Mission, is **Jennifer Ring**, Registrar/Curator, who competently and pleasantly handles the collection management. It seems to me that **Jennifer** and **Mechelle** are a dynamic duo who work with a lot of positive energy and professionalism, overseeing the artistic patrimony and outreach programs of the most popular historical site in California. We love working with everyone associated with this organization.

I am gratified that the past Public Information Officer of FEMA, **Bill Henriques**, saw the vision of my Save Your Stuff message (which includes pets!), and how being concerned ahead of time for these types of items, treasures, and pets can drastically alter the outcome for the better when there is an emergency situation. *“This information needs to be in the hands of every staff member, in every FEMA office, in disaster areas.”* – **Dr. Bill Henriques**, Public Information Officer, Federal Coordinating Officer for Disasters, FEMA, National Contingency Program, Public Affairs.

Likewise, **Andrew Linick**, of The Linick Group, Inc., New York, said, after understanding the chaos created by household emergencies, *“If there is one book to have when there is a disaster, this is it! This will be a bestseller.”* Again, I am thankful for his expert vision.

Many government emergency planners embrace our Save Your Stuff (which includes pets!) message. We presently have a 3-year contract for expert consultation with the province of British Columbia, Canada. And I am grateful for their recognition of the value of our preservation message. Thanks to **Heather A. Lyle**, Emergency Planner, City of Vancouver, Canada, for her support:

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“We hand out information to the public on disaster planning, and I will be happy to let them know about your book. We will keep our copy for ready reference.” Gratitude and acknowledgement to **Sareth Neak** in the USA for support from Homeland Security Outlook, www.hsoutlook.com:

“We look forward to making the Save Your Stuff message an integral part of our preparedness information and education for government offices. Scott Haskins’ expertise is essential information.” I have the pleasure of speaking several times at related events in Hurricane Country.

I often speak to friends of historical societies/museums and docent councils as their preservation and disaster preparedness expert, with our *Save Your Stuff* message (which includes pets!), and I am so fond of, and can’t speak highly enough of, the **Friends of the Historic Mission Inn** in Riverside, California. **Juanita Thinnes**, Past President and genealogist gushed, *“As a self-help book, this is the ultimate manual . . . This is a must-have for anyone who prizes photographs, documents, papers, etc. . . . even without a disaster.”* Also, I want to acknowledge the good work, great attitude and brilliant talents of **Dani Trynoski** at the Mission Inn Foundation and Mission Inn Museum. She is such a pleasure to work with!!

One of the most brilliant women I know vicariously through my wife, Diana, is **Dr. Lynda Cook**. Her stamina and determination to do good is at hero-worship levels. Her will to do international goodwill but yet still care about the individual, is amazing, and my wife and I have been recipients of her amazingness. Respect and honor.

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Rescuing pets

Diane's List of Pet Inspiration, Kindness, and Thank You's

Dr. George Bertram, DVM, and **Nel Bertram,** of Vernal, Utah, for saving Nina the German Shepard's leg when hit by a car, and for working to save Jake, the New Zealand Huntaway, from cancer. You are amazing pet lovers and healers, Dr. George, and the world's finest pet surgeon.

White's Pet Hospital, Santa Barbara, CA, for providing care for Iris, the Beagle/Jack Russell mix, through her surgery and rehabilitation after her spine rupture, and assisting when she needed a Pet Mobility K9 Cart to help her exercise and run again.

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Dr. Otto, Dr. Putnam, and Dr. Fisher, at the **Carpinteria Veterinary Hospital**, Carpinteria, CA, have an award-winning staff, and years of assistance and care with so many pets. Thank you from my heart, for your kindness and compassion.

Ariana Katovich, at **Santa Barbara Wildlife Care Network**, Goleta, CA, thank you for your prompt response in rescuing and rehabilitating the many pelicans found, the hummingbird brought to you, the four sparrows that had fallen out of their nest in a windstorm, and the Snowy Plover found covered in tar on the beach. You go above and beyond for our wildlife.

Channel Islands Veterinary Hospital, Port Hueneme, CA, for your knowledge and assistance in helping BonVie, the King Charles Cavalier Spaniel, to take off a few pounds and get back in shape. Your weight loss plan for her was excellent.

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Suzan Duval, animal and bird illustrator, thank you for your amazing talent, inspiration, and illustrations for *Valentino, The Love Bunny*.

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Daryl Stevenett and **Gerri Shaffer**, and Belle the Boston Terrier, who never misses a gig when her dad is playing.

Kevin Stevenett, and Daisy the Golden Doodle guide dog, thank you for the immense joy and entertainment that you give to everyone around you.

Frank Harris Jr., for your loving care of Jake the New Zealand Huntaway; for the cats, Carmen and Miranda, the 21-year-old sisters; and Chelsea, the white, blind, and wild kitty.

Thank you, **Erel Oral** and BonVie the King Charles Cavalier Spaniel, for being such a loving and healing force for Helene during her breast cancer. You were both dedicated and never left her side.

Paige Naccarato for your patience and love when Niko the Yorkie has a seizure. You're an amazing mom.



Diane and Jake the New Zealand Huntaway

Read This First

You will cherish the help in this book if you cherish your house pets and want to protect, save and help them. **Even if you do only one thing in this book**, you will be better prepared (a little bit... so do more than 1!) to protect and save your feathered friends and fur babies, at critical times such as a car accident, damaging/loud/violent emergencies at your home, and natural disasters in the area.

In fact, our sole purpose for you, with this open book in hand, is to help you IMMEDIATELY do better at protecting your treasured house pet. When I am helping my clients to decide how to get started, I tell them: *“I can help YOU feel better, emotionally, now! Flip through the book and find a quick and easy action to take, and see how it feels! Don’t put off taking a quick, easy action to give you a quick rush of satisfaction.”*

Of course, Diane and I cannot put live links to click on in this physical book, but if you go to the websites, there is the color version in digital format, and all the photographs, etc. are available for download, and are in full color, print-ready and full-sized. Go to: **ProtectYourPet GuideBook.com**.

Your most treasured possessions that enrich your life and document your heritage are mostly uninsurable! Irreplaceable items that would give you heartache if they were lost or damaged—all of these types of treasures in your life are so important, you can hardly list them in order of importance! To have them damaged or lost would cause reoccurring heartache for a long time. Having read this, you may be thinking about your original family history photos, letters, certificates

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and heirlooms. And you would be right! Is a photo of the original good enough? Hardly; it's a part of the foundation of your life.

And so it would be with our dear pets that give so much back!!

This is your essential emergency preparedness guide for your feathered and furry children.

Pets are part of our everyday lives and part of our families. They provide us with companionship but also with emotional support, reduce our stress levels and sense of loneliness, help us to increase our social activities, and add to a child's self-esteem and positive emotional development.



Cooper, microchipped and built for comfort, stays close by Henry, Laurie Tharp's son.

Many people count on pets for therapy; they are even taken to nursing homes, hospitals and care centers to encourage interaction and activities. Amazing pets can be trained not only to entertain but in serious stuff like in rescue procedures, medical alert and detection, disability assistance... amazing things. Pets save people's lives on a daily basis.

More examples and stories at ProtectYourPetGuideBook.com

One of our main responsibilities toward our pets is ensuring their health and welfare. As responsible “parents” and pet owners, we need to ensure that our animals are protected, even when the situation is not “normal.” Add your story, with your pet protecting efforts, on our blog, at **ProtectYourPetGuideBook.com**.

Scott M. Haskins and Diane Stevenett, International Book Award-Winning Authors

Chapter 1

YOU Are a Good “Parent” to Have Recognized This Need Ahead of Time!

... but *“Don’t accept your dog’s admiration as conclusive evidence that you are wonderful.”*

– Ann Landers

What Is a *Disaster* for Your Pet?



She’s doing things right - Dog is secure

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We started out wanting to write a compelling, readable, heart-tugging, non-fiction book on pets and their needs when disasters hit. We were overwhelmed with great stories galore... and the book got huge and further away from *our most important purpose*, TO HELP YOU PREPARE YOUR PET FOR AN EMERGENCY SITUATION!

So, please forgive the dryness and lack of artistry, but THIS IS AN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS **MANUAL AND REFERENCE BOOK** FOR HOUSE PETS.

I like the definition that *“A disaster is an emergency situation for which you were not prepared.”* There’s a lot of regret in that definition...

Where you live may be prone to specific (common) natural disasters. If you are feeling like you are “out of reach” of Mother Nature, we hope so. Have a plan for: floods (mud, landslides), tornados, hurricanes (or cyclones), violent or extreme storms, earthquakes, tsunamis, wildfires, and extreme heat and humidity.

Picture your pet’s needs and their possible response in these situations, and you are “getting the picture.” For examples, go to ProtectYourPetGuideBook.com

Of course, no matter where you live, your family may be exposed to any of these man-made emergency situations: car accident, personal illness (so that you could not take care of your pet), home security, theft, domestic violence, house fire, changing living situations (the pet care giver moves out), family transitions, moves, absences (may be an emergency situation for your pet), general transportation in your area that would impact your home, bridge or road failure, lack of accessibility to your area (and therefore lack of supplies), dam failure, floods, oil spill (impacting the economy of your area), famine, epidemic, building collapse (storage buildings where pets are kept), terrorist attack, civil unrest, war.

More examples and stories at ProtectYourPetGuideBook.com

Although you can't prepare for every disaster, brainstorm what it would mean for your pet's welfare to prepare for what you know. What can you do to get better prepared on some things?!?! *Some quick interesting stats:*

Home Fires – There are about 400,000 home fires in the US every year!

Flood – FEMA states that water damage is the most commonly reported problem.

Car Accidents – There are over 5.5 million car accidents a year in the USA.

When I am helping my clients know what their next step is, I tell them to envision which disasters and emergency situations they could be faced with in their area and living circumstances. Visualize your pets and their needs in these situations... you have begun the process.



Photo of Souty Beskhyroun's cat, Nosha, hiding in a closet. A frightful and anxious search would ensue if you had to leave and you didn't know where she was.

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Preparing for Everyday Emergencies

A sudden injury in the family may call you away from home for a few days, or a water main break in your neighborhood may prevent you from getting home. Everyday emergencies like this may only affect you (and your pet) for 24 to 48 hours, but you still need to have a plan. In this chapter, you will learn how to prepare for these everyday emergencies. For examples, go to ProtectYourPetGuideBook.com.

Use the buddy system; it's a team effort to stay safe.

If you are unable to care for your pet for a short period of time, it is a good idea to have someone stop in to check on him (neighbor, relative, pet sitter), and have this set up ahead of time. Even self-sufficient animals like cats would benefit from a check-in, just in case they run out of water or food. Your best option is to choose a neighbor or friend who lives close to your house; this ensures that someone can get to your pet quickly, if necessary. Obviously, choose a person who is completely trustworthy to be on your property and with your furry and feathered children! Do not simply choose a buddy based on proximity, however; you need to be sure they are up to the task of caring for your pet in an emergency. Consider the possible variables for the job:

- Do you have experience caring for this type of pet?
- Do you feel comfortable taking my pet into your home if needed?
- Do you have other pets at home? Will they get along with my pet?
- Are you comfortable administering medications?
- Are you willing to play with my pet and take him for walks, if needed?
- Would you be willing to take my pet along if an evacuation becomes necessary?
- Would you care for my pet if my absence becomes permanent?
- How will you transport my pet if you need to?

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As you can see, if you are asking someone to help you at the last minute over the phone, you will not be able to ask them all these questions, for several reasons. Plan ahead.

Once you select a pet sitter, there are certain things you should do to make sure he or she is fully equipped to take over in the event of an emergency:

- Give your pet sitter a set of keys to your home and show him which doors they correspond to. Make sure he/she is trustworthy.
- Inform your pet sitter how to disable the alarm system in your house, if you have one.
- Show your pet sitter where you keep your pet's food, toys and medications.
- Give your pet sitter an overview of your pet's routine so that he can emulate it if possible.
- Show your pet sitter where your pet's Grab-and-Go kit (see the next page) is located, and go over each of the items in the kit.
- Show your pet sitter how to administer any medications your pet needs.
- Give your pet sitter a list of emergency contacts to use in the event that you cannot be reached.

What to Do if Your Pet Is Lost or Stolen

*"I stand fearlessly for small dogs,
the American Flag,
motherhood and the Bible.
That's why people love me."
– Art Linkletter*

As you know, pets can get disoriented or distracted easily, and even more easily if there are loud noises, crowds, traffic, etc. In fact, you could come home to discover that he has escaped from the house because of fireworks. Or because of kids next door or the noise from

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a trash truck. Even if you did bring your pet with you everywhere, the stress of the unexpected could be too much for him and he could bolt.

So, as a precaution, consider a collar with ID and a microchip. (More on this in the next chapter.)

If your pet gets lost, it could be in the surrounding area. Do not panic. Follow these steps to increase your chances of being reunited with your pet:

- If you are in an area of business, contact the businesses for help. Give them photos and your phone number asap.
- Check for help with your social media online.
- Contact all of the local animal shelters and animal control agencies in your area to see if a pet matching the description has been turned in. Give them photos and your phone number asap.
- File a lost pet report with every shelter and agency within 60 miles of your home.
- Check in with the shelters and agencies every day that your pet is missing
- Search your neighborhood and the surrounding area, several times a day, at different times.
- Ask friends, neighbors, mail carriers, etc. if they have seen your pet (carry a recent photo with you).
- Advertise by posting flyers on community bulletin boards, at grocery stores, at traffic intersections, at pet stores, and online— if you offer a reward, there is a greater chance that someone will call if they find your pet.
- Include a recent photo in the flyer, along with your pet's breed, color, age, and any special markings.
- You may want to leave out details about one significant marking, and ask anyone who calls about your pet to identify it.
- Don't give up the search—your pet could be scared and in hiding for a period of time before he comes out and can be found.

More examples and stories at ProtectYourPetGuideBook.com

If your pet is stolen...

Then, of course, it could be taken anywhere. So, your only recourse for finding it is going to be an electronic tracking system. Thieves, who may not be aware of a microchip, could take the animal to a vet or other caretaker, and the pet would be automatically scanned, discovered, and you would be called. I have heard of this happening with a California pet being “found” in Missouri. (More on this in the next chapter.)

FEMA Suggests...

Preparing for Your Pets Makes Sense—Get Ready Now.

If you are like millions of animal owners nationwide, your pet is an important member of your household. The likelihood that you and your animals will survive an emergency such as a fire or flood, tornado, or terrorist attack, depends largely on emergency planning done today. Some of the things you can do to prepare for the unexpected, such as assembling an animal emergency supply kit, and developing a pet care buddy system, are the same for any emergency. Whether you decide to stay put in an emergency or evacuate to a safer location, you will need to make plans in advance for your pets. Keep in mind that what’s best for you is typically what’s best for your animals. If you must evacuate, take your pets with you if possible. However, if you are going to a public shelter, it is important to understand that animals may not be allowed inside. Plan in advance for shelter alternatives that will work for both you and your pets.

For examples, go to ProtectYourPetGuideBook.com.

Make a back-up emergency plan in case you can’t care for your animals yourself. Develop a buddy system with neighbors, friends and relatives to make sure that someone is available to care for or evacuate your pets if you are unable to do so. Be prepared to improvise and use what you have on hand to make it on your own for

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at least three days, maybe longer. Preparing for the unexpected makes sense. ***Get Ready Now.***

In the upcoming pages, written with our heartfelt concern, you're going to find actionable information to help you deal with distressed pets:

- in car accidents
- who are out of their normal environment and disoriented
- when apocalyptic events occur
- when in shaking environments like thunder, lightning, hurricanes, avalanches and mudslides, earthquakes and tornadoes
- during storms, floods, and lots of water (FEMA said water events are the number one damage claim of all disasters.)
- that need help surviving smoke and heat

Even emergency equipment in your neighborhood, strangers on your property, and other similar things can cause your pet to act unexpectedly.

The most important thing you can do to keep your pet safe, if you suspect something might affect them, is to take them with you if you have to leave the property. People think their pets will be more comfortable or somehow safer at home. This is not the case. It's in so many situations where people think they're going to be gone for a couple of hours, and then they're not allowed to go back to their home for days or sometimes even weeks. What is going to happen to your pet if you left him behind?

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Small boy caring for pet in storm

Communication in Times of Need

The amateur radio network (MUCH more than just geeky old ex-military guys) is usually accompanied by a live network of people of all ages helping each other. It might be a good place to look for help with your pets in times of emergency.

Reports for help are made within these organizations without utilizing the telephone system (i.e. walk, bike, or drive to make contact). Find out ahead of time who is active in your area. You should not hesitate to contact any of the radio amateurs near your location, with emergency information or requests. It's a network operation. Messages get passed along. Security and other emergency services get contacted. It is likely that you will find assistance for your pets, within this network of prepared citizens.

In an emergency situation, whether it's just you or a widespread disaster, communication is of paramount importance; and if it is available, it will bring you much needed comfort and relief. From this point of view, mobile phones have made this a safer world... if your

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battery isn't dead. So, think ahead, for your sake and your loved ones (pets included), and have solar powered or rechargeable batteries in your emergency kit. For examples, go to ProtectYourPetGuideBook.com.

Truckers, prepper clubs, and some communities like churches sometimes have ham radio set ups. In fact, the area where you live probably has a group of hard-core emergency preppers that would love to be contacted by you, either because you are just planning ahead or in times of need! Ham radio or "amateur radio" is employed when regular telephone or internet messaging service is not available. It was reported to be the only service available during the Haiti earthquake aftermath.

First thought is, naturally, to use your mobile phone. But with the entire population on their mobile phone, it's easy to imagine the network being overloaded, or you may be in an area with poor transmission. In these cases, remember that while mobile service may not work with live voice, texting may work fine. This was the case in a recent wildfire situation in our community. If these two methods are not useful, the next level of help may come from ham radio (also referred to as amateur radio) operators.

Communication with others brings help faster. Get to a safe place, with good care for your pet, immediately. When I am discussing with my clients how to figure out a plan, I tell them:

"Remember, your pet may be the best therapy you'll have!!" ... and not to ignore "their power."

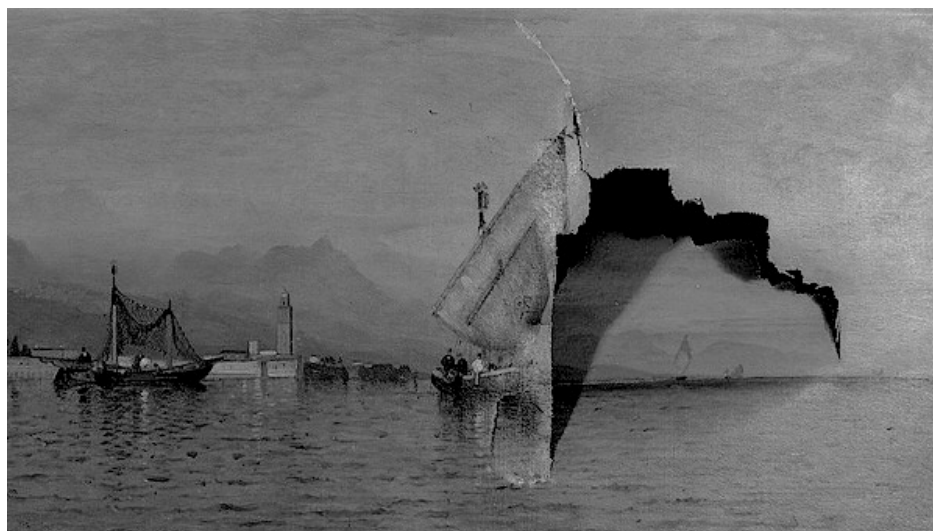
Pets and Collectibles/Artwork in Close Proximity

Because Scott Haskins, one of the co-authors, is an expert in emergency response and care of art antiques and collectibles, allow us to throw out some ideas for your "possibility thinking."

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The possibility, of course, is for a very costly disaster if you try to handle valuable collectibles and disoriented and freaked out pets at the same time, and transport them in the same vehicle without taking precautions.

To be sure, we see this situation take place often enough as we respond to natural disasters in the areas we work. The types of damage have ranged from the extreme carelessness of throwing a valuable heirloom oil painting into the back of a pickup truck, with no protection, together with a 100-lb dog, to a cat spraying an antique painting and frame that have been removed from the wall during the chaos of evacuating a home.



Ripped painting of fishing boats

While you love your pets with your heart, mind and emotions... the owners of damaged collectibles, whom we meet with, always feel dumb when they come to us for repairs after the pet has caused the damage. It is very common, and a bitter pill to take, that the repairs cost thousands of dollars, and can cause thousands of dollars of lost value even if the repair is perfect. (More about all of this further along in the book.) For examples, go to ProtectYourPetGuideBook.com.

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To be sure, these circumstances vary, depending on whether it is a one-of-a-kind heirloom or whether it is a collectible with financial value. It also makes a big difference whether the repair money will come out of pocket or be paid by insurance. (If you can convince your insurance company that you are not an art collector, but that the collectible is a house decoration or an heirloom, you may include the repairs on your homeowners policy, rather than having to accept the insurance company's excuse that you didn't have a fine arts policy.)

This book is intended to give you many, many important tips to not only protect and save your pets but also to save you money. In fact, the suggestion in the last sentence of that last paragraph may save you thousands.

Also, to be sure, a pet thrown in the back of a vehicle along with collectibles and other stuff is going to be prone to injury and certainly is not safe. So, you can see that a carrier, leash, or other restraints not only will protect your pet but may save you thousands of dollars in repairs of the damage that the animal creates during the chaos.

As I am writing this, the chaotic events are visually playing through my mind, as I have seen them take place many times. But I also know that peace of mind comes with planning, and the difficult situations can transpire much more smoothly. We are going to help you.