

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

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and fur babies

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

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

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?

More examples and stories at ProtectYourPetGuideBook.com

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."

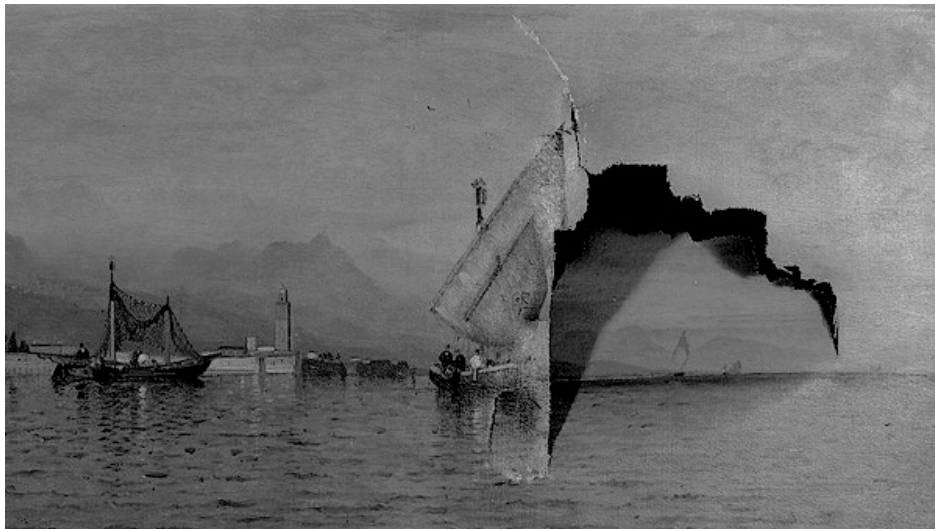
Pets and Collectibles/Artwork in Close Proximity

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."

More examples and stories at ProtectYourPetGuideBook.com

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.