



Tips for Setting Up a Safe Place for Evacuation Improvisation

- Target Audience: Shelter Staff and Volunteers
- Description: Provides recommendations on how to establish a temporary safe place for animals in case of evacuation, covering aspects such as safety, provision of basic needs, and organization.



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In emergency situations, it may be necessary to improvise a safe place for evacuated animals. Here are some tips for handling this situation efficiently and safely.

1. Initial Space Assessment

Space Selection:

- Look for a location that is away from immediate danger.
- Ensure the space has adequate ventilation and protection against the elements (rain, wind, extreme heat). If these conditions are not met, additional measures will be necessary to ensure a safe and comfortable environment for the animals.

It is essential to consider the materials needed to improvise the shelter, such as temporary fencing, coverings, water and food bowls, and bedding. Prepare a detailed list of these items.

Area Safety:

- Conduct a thorough inspection to ensure there are no broken glass, nails, exposed wires, or other items that may cause harm, such as chemicals, pesticides, or hazardous waste.
- If outdoors, delineate the space with temporary fences or barriers to prevent animals from dispersing.
- Identify and secure any potential escape points. Check fences, doors, and windows to ensure they are in good condition and that there are no gaps or spaces where animals could escape.
- Assign volunteers to monitor the barriers and fences periodically, ensuring they remain intact and effective.



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2. Setting Up the Temporary Shelter

Rest Areas:

- Organize separate areas for different types of animals if possible (dogs, cats, others).
- Use blankets, mats, or any available material to create improvised beds that offer comfort and warmth.
- Constantly check the condition of leashes, collars, and harnesses for each dog to ensure they are in good condition and working properly. This helps prevent any risk of escape or accidents.
- For cats, it is equally important to ensure that their cages are always properly closed and that they do not have any damage that could compromise their safety.

Maintaining this regular check ensures the well-being and safety of all animals under our care.

Shade and Shelter:

- If outdoors, set up tarps, tents, or any structure that can provide shade and protection against the weather.
- Indoors, make sure there is enough space for the animals to move around without feeling confined.

3. Provision of Basic Needs

Water and Food:

- Ensure you have enough clean drinking water and suitable containers for all the animals.
- Distribute food in appropriate portions and at regular intervals, considering each animal's specific diets if possible.





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Hygiene:

- Establish designated areas for animals to relieve themselves, using cat litter, newspapers, or any available absorbent material.
- Regularly clean these areas to maintain a hygienic environment and reduce animal stress.

This task is performed more efficiently by assigning groups and shifts among volunteers. By distributing responsibilities and organizing schedules, it ensures that all animals receive constant and quality care.

4. Organization and Control

Identification and Registration:

- Keep a record of all animals in the temporary shelter, including details such as their name, distinctive characteristics, and any special needs.
- Use temporary collars or tags if possible to quickly identify each animal.

Monitoring and Supervision:

- Organize surveillance shifts to ensure that there is always someone supervising the animals and attending to their needs.
- Establish a communication system between volunteers and staff to better coordinate tasks and quickly resolve issues.

5. Communication and Coordination

Communication Groups:

- Create communication groups (e.g., on WhatsApp) to keep all volunteers and staff informed and coordinated.
- Designate a main point of contact who can centralize and distribute information efficiently.





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Collaboration with Authorities:

- Maintain regular contact with local authorities, firefighters, and police to receive updates on the situation and coordinate evacuation and security efforts.

6. Special Considerations

Animals with Special Needs:

- Identify animals that require medication, special diets, or additional care and ensure they receive the necessary attention.
- Keep a stock of medicines and specific supplies for these animals if possible.

Preventing Escapes:

- Ensure all animals wear appropriate collars and harnesses to prevent escapes.
- Closely monitor the most nervous and stressed animals, as they may attempt to escape in search of safety.

In emergency situations, effective communication and coordination are essential. Every minute counts, and good organization can make the difference between a successful evacuation and a disaster. Stay in constant contact with shelter staff and other volunteers, and make sure everyone knows what to do and where to go at all times.

Setting up a safe place during an evacuation can be challenging, but with proper planning and a proactive attitude, it's possible to ensure the well-being of the animals in your care. Follow these tips, stay calm, and work together to overcome any emergency situation. Together, we can protect our furry friends and ensure their safety in critical moments.

