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News Release

Plan for Pets: June is National Pet Preparedness Month

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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LANSING, MICH. In recognition of National Pet Preparedness Month, the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division (MSP/EMHSD), and the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) are urging residents to include pets in their emergency plans.

"When disasters strike, families often have only moments to act," said Capt. Kevin Sweeney, deputy state director of Emergency Management and commander of the MSP/EMHSD. "Several significant weather events in the past few years have forced many Michiganders to evacuate their homes. They serve as a powerful reminder to plan ahead, not just for your family, but for your pets too."

"When planning for unexpected situations, it is important to consider all members of our households, including our pets," said MDARD State Veterinarian Dr. Nora Wineland, DVM, MS, DACVPM. "Having a well-stocked emergency supply kit with their food, water, medications, and even a favorite toy can help keep pets calm and safe during unforeseen circumstances. By thinking ahead, our furry, feathered, finned, and scaled family members can be better protected."

Creating a pet preparedness kit is a simple but important step toward full family readiness. Make sure these items are packed and stored in an easily accessible place:

- Food and water for at least three days, along with bowls
- Leash, collar, and pet carrier
- Recent photo of your pet and one of you with your pet
- Vaccination and medical records, plus necessary medications
- Pet first aid supplies: bandages, gloves, tweezers, antibiotic ointment, etc.
- Contact list for pet-friendly hotels, veterinarians, and out-of-town caregivers
- Sanitation bags and familiar toys to comfort your pet

For more on disaster preparedness and pets, please visit [the American Veterinary Medical Association's website](#). To learn more about being prepared before, during, and after an emergency or disaster, follow the MSP/EMHSD on X at [@MichEMHS](#) or visit www.michigan.gov/miready.