



My Disaster Preparedness Plan

Suggested Grade Level 4

Objective	The students will create a disaster preparedness plan for their pets (or a pet they would like to have) using information from a sample plan as a guide.
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• AVMA poster• Internet access

Procedure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The teacher discusses natural and man-made disasters. Students are asked if they have seen pictures on television of hurricanes, floods, fire, volcanic eruptions, etc. <i>What happens when there is a disaster? What do people who evacuate take with them? Do animals and pets sometimes get left behind? What could you do to plan in advance for a disaster?</i>• www.in.gov/boah/pdfs/HorseSAVE.pdf is a disaster plan for horse-owners prepared by the Indiana State Board of Animal Health. Ask students to visit the site and answer these questions: <i>What activities does the plan recommend before a disaster, during a disaster, and after a disaster? Is everything in the plan applicable just to families with horses?</i>• Tell students to create a disaster plan for their own family and pets using the Indiana plan as a model. For students without pets, let them select a pretend pet (not a horse) for this exercise. (<i>Teachers: Read the AVMA booklet, Saving the Whole Family, for ideas on pet evacuation plans. You can access it at: www.avma.org/disaster/saving_family_brochure.pdf.)</i>)• Explain that it is wrong to copy the plan exactly. Students must alter the material and the steps in the plan to fit their own family situation. Have students share their plan with other students in small groups and list all the steps that they have in common. Have them complete their plans by adding information they learn from their classmates.• Students each share their plan with their family. Those without pets can ask their parents to comment on their plan as if they will have a pet in the future or the student can ask a neighbor who has a pet to critique their plan. Back in class, students each write a paragraph sharing their family's or neighbor's comments and suggestions on their disaster plan.
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National Standards:

Language Arts

- Writing skills
- Interpret/create a new text

Ideas to extend this lesson	<p>Ask students to research what happened to animals in a recent disaster such as the California fires of 2007. Have students describe how veterinarians assisted in the disaster and how things might have been different if more people had created a family disaster plan to follow.</p> <p>Invite a local veterinarian to visit and share examples of rescue situations involving animals and offer tips on disaster planning for pets.</p>
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