

Top Five Pet Planning Tips

1. **Carry a Pet Alert Card.**

In case of emergency, carrying a Pet Alert Card in your wallet is an easy way to notify authorities that you have pets at home and provide emergency contacts for them to call if something should happen to you.

2. **Assess and Re-assess Your Situation**

How many pets do you own? Do they have special medical or behavioral needs? If you have multiple pets, do they need to stay together? Assessing and re-assessing your current situation will help ensure that you always have an appropriate plan in place.

3. **Ask Permission**

You should never assume that the emergency caregivers you've chosen, including rescue organizations, will accept the responsibility. Therefore, it's important to speak with each individual and/ or organization about this commitment in order to ensure they are willing and able to act as a potential guardian for your pet.

4. **Consider Leaving Money**

Although it's not necessary, it's never a bad idea to leave funds to cover your pet's basic needs for the rest of his/her life. Consider your pet's age, customary lifestyle and special needs when deciding on the appropriate amount.

5. **Complete a Pet Portfolio**

A Pet Portfolio is a document containing pertinent information about your pet that would be valuable to a potential guardian and/or emergency caregiver in your absence. You should complete a separate Pet Portfolio for each pet you own.