

Disaster Preparedness for Birds

If you need to evacuate - TAKE YOUR BIRD(s) WITH YOU! It is a good idea to have a pre-arranged safe place. Ask friends and relatives that live in different areas if they would be willing to help out in an emergency. Also contact local hotels and motels and check on their pet policies. Have a secure TRAVEL CAGE available at all times. Have enough carriers for all birds (don't forget your other pets). Transport your bird in a safe CARRIER. Check to make sure your carrier or cage is secure. All opening doors and a removable top or bottom on your cage, should be fastened to prevent them from opening during a disaster--and your bird escaping. Keep a pair of pliers and wire in your disaster supplies to make any necessary repairs to the cage after a disaster.

➤ Store a **BIRDIE DISASTER KIT** next to the carrier. It should contain the following:

1. Bottled Water
2. FIRST AID SUPPLIES AND BOOK FOR BIRDS
Check with your veterinarian to find out what is recommended to include in the first aid kit. Some suggested items include - Kwik Stop or cornstarch to stop bleeding, tweezers, heavy-duty gloves (for handling the bird if it is injured and trying to bite), bandaging materials. [Limit use of Quick Stop to toe nail bleeding]
3. Food - Seed or Pellets (rotate your supplies for freshness) – 2 weeks worth is a good idea.
4. Trail Mix or Dehydrated Fruits and Vegetables
5. Peanut butter, good protein source that is eaten readily by birds
6. Spray Bottle
7. Canned Fruits and Veggies (no salt or low salt)
8. A towel & blanket cover for each bird.
9. A long handled bird net, if your birds are not clipped.
10. Heavy duty gloves (for handling the bird if it is injured and trying to bite),
11. Flashlight and batteries
12. Recent pictures of your bird, including any distinguishing marks. This is to help you locate your bird should it get loose during a disaster. Include yourself in some of the pictures for proof of ownership. Print identifying information (bird's name, age, diet, medication, etc.) on the reverse side of the picture.
13. You may want to consider getting your bird micro chipped. Check with your veterinarian for more information about this permanent form of identification, which works great with birds since you can't put a collar and a tag around their neck.
14. If your bird is on long-term medication, be sure you always have at least a (2) week supply on hand. Your veterinarian may not be able to open for a while after the disaster has struck to fill prescriptions.
15. Check with your veterinarian to see if he/she has a disaster plan should your bird need emergency care following a disaster. Locate a back up veterinarian just in case yours is not available.
16. If you are going on vacation and leaving your bird with someone, be sure you have discussed with them a plan to take care of your bird in the event of a disaster.
17. Try to remain calm, because stress can be transmitted to your birds.

AVIAN FIRST AID KIT

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| 1. Towel for wrapping & securing bird | 9. Hemostats & tweezers |
| 2. Scissors | 10. Needle nosed pliers (for pulling broken blood feathers) |
| 3. Nail clippers | 11. Disinfectant |
| 4. Tissues | 12. Q-Tips |
| 5. Cornstarch to stop bleeding | 13. Betadyne or Hydrogen Peroxide |
| 6. Gauze pads | 14. Tape & Vet Wrap |
| 7. Flashlight | 15. Sterile water or bottled water |
| 8. Pedialyte (for rehydrating a dehydrated bird) | 16. Two feeding syringes |

Wherever there are birds, there should be a "birdie" First Aid Kit. When an accident happens it is too late to look for the necessary supplies.