

Pet Evacuation Preparedness

The proposed Pet Evacuation Policy currently under consideration by the State Department would require all pet owners to agree in writing to ensure their pets are fully prepared at all times for evacuation.

Although there are certain steps pet owners can only take in the month or weeks prior to departure (please see Management Notice 11/070, Outgoing Travel with Pets for more information), the following checklist offers important things you can do **NOW** to make sure your pet is ready for emergency travel.

Does your pet have...?

- An airline-approved, hard-sided kennel with a functioning latch?

*Cat and small dog owners: if pets are not allowed to accompany us and must be transported by cargo plane, a **hard-sided kennel is required**. Pets will **not** be transported as cargo in soft-side kennels.*

- Medical records, ready in your To Go Bag, showing current vaccinations required for entry into the U.S. and possible transit countries?

*To enter the United States: All dogs **must** have been vaccinated for rabies at least 30 days prior to entry. There is currently no rabies vaccination requirement for cats, however individual states may have rabies vaccination requirements.*

- A collar with identification tag?

- A 30-day supply of any required medication?

- A microchip? *Although this doesn't affect us in Latin American, as of 2011, microchipping was required for all pets traveling to Europe. If you'll be moving to a European post or transiting Europe, consider getting this done in advance.*

Have you...

- Identified at least one local caretaker to be called upon in the event that efforts to evacuate the pet are not successful?

- Identified at least one individual in the U.S. to whom the pet can be sent?

- Provided to the CLO or your Post Pet Evacuation Officer your pet's name, species, breed, gender, and size for inclusion in the Embassy Pet Database?