Make a pet emergency plan

If you suddenly need to go into hospital or respite care, would someone know your pet needs help?

Emergencies can happen without warning. Having a simple plan in place can help to make sure your pet is cared for, giving you peace of mind.

Three simple steps

1. Choose a trusted person

Ask a family member, friend or neighbour if they could care for your pet in an emergency.

2. Write down important information

Include:

- Your pet's name and type of animal
- Sex and age
- Walking/exercise requirements and routine
- Food and medication needs (including where they’re kept and timings)
- Behavioural needs or risks
- Vaccinations
- Vet contact details and microchip details (if applicable)
- Your emergency pet carer's contact information

You can use the form at the end of this factsheet or make your own plan. Keep this information somewhere easy to find.

3. Carry emergency contact details

Keep a card in your wallet or purse, or add emergency information to your phone. For example:

"I have a pet at home. If I am taken ill or admitted to hospital, please contact..."

Include the name and phone number of your emergency pet carer.

Need More Support?

Some organisations may be able to help with emergency or longer-term pet care arrangements.

The Cinnamon Trust
Provides support for older people and those with long-term or terminal illness, including pet fostering during hospital stays and help with pet care.
Website: www.cinnamon.org.uk
Phone: 01736 757900

Dogs Trust Canine Care Card (dog owners)
A free scheme that helps ensure dogs are cared for if their owner becomes seriously ill, moves into care, or dies.
Website: www.dogstrust.org.uk
Phone: 0303 003 0000
Email: info@dogstrust.org.uk

RSPCA – general pet care information
Website: www.rspca.org.uk
Phone: 01243 773359 (RSPCA Sussex West branch)
Email: info@rspcasussexwest.org.uk

Lastly, make sure your pet's vaccinations are kept up to date and recorded in their emergency care plan, so anyone caring for them has the information they need.

Emergency pet care arrangements

In the event of an emergency when I cannot care for my pets, please contact the following people who have offered to help.

Name:	**Name:**
Address:	**Address:**
Phone number:	**Phone number:**
Name and type of pet(s):	
Sex and age of pet(s):	
What they eat and when:	
Where the pet food is kept:	
Medication/vaccinations:	
Where the medication is kept:	
Where the pet carrier/lead/toys are kept:	
Name of the vet: **Address:** **Phone:**	
Any other important information (routine, behaviour, likes and dislikes):	