

# PET EMERGENCY / FUTURE PLANNING CHECKLIST

## Documentation:

- Display a Pet Alert sticker conspicuously near the entrance to your home.
- Keep a card in your wallet (behind your driver's license is a good place) with your emergency contact information and pet details in case you're in an accident.

If you live alone and/or have a pet that has a medical condition, you may consider...

- Giving permission to access your home in case of an emergency.  
If you are an Arlington County resident, you can draft a document permitting AWLA's Animal Control Officers entry into your residence in case of an emergency. Please provide AWLA and, if applicable, your property management company, with a copy of this document so there are no questions if/when an emergency arises. (If you live elsewhere, contact your local animal services facility for advice and information.)
- Keeping a printed copy of your pet's medical needs on your refrigerator where First Responders typically check when accessing a home in an emergency.

## Your Will:

- Speak to an attorney or estate planner about making a provision in your will, or creating a pet trust, to designate a person, rescue, or shelter to care for your pet in the event that you are unable to do so.
- Permit access to your home if necessary. (See above for more info on this)
- State where your pet is regularly vetted. This can be as simple as: "Fido's medical history and records are available at his/her primary vet named XXXX under [Owner's Name]."

## Other Considerations:

- Prepare a "go-bag" for you and your pet(s) and store it where you can easily grab it and go in case of an emergency.  
Items to consider for your pet "go-bag" include food, water, medicine, first aid kit, extra collar with ID tag, carrier, sanitation needs, towels, blankets, toys, comfort items, a photograph of your and your pet together, and your contact information.
- Microchip your pet and make sure the number is registered with [Petwatch Found Animals](https://tinyurl.com/59v7dj6y) (<https://tinyurl.com/59v7dj6y>). Confirm that your contact information is correct and periodically check to make sure it is up-to-date. This will ensure that, even if your pet loses its collar or tags, shelters and veterinary hospitals can scan the chip and reunite them with you.