

Animal Safety: Protecting Pets During an Earthquake

When the ground starts shaking

- “Drop, Cover and Hold On” immediately. It’s important to take care of yourself first.
- Many pets won’t want to be restrained during an earthquake. Let them find a safe place to hide.
- If your pet is nearby and comfortable being held, pick it up and hold it to your chest as you “Drop, Cover and Hold On.” However, if your pet becomes aggressive and struggles to get away, let it go and stay covered. Your safety is paramount.
- If your pet is in a carrier or crate, leave it inside. It will be protected from falling debris.



After the shaking stops

- Count to 60 allowing unstable objects to settle.
- When safe to do so, locate your pet if it sought its own shelter.
- Depending on the severity of the quake, there may be sharp debris on the floor. If the animal is willing, put it in a crate or carrier to avoid paw injuries.
- If the animal is skittish, allow it to stay in the safe place it found and clear the area around it.



Preparing your pets

Your pets will be counting on you to keep them safe after an earthquake.

- Draft a pet emergency plan. Ensure it includes vet and ID details, such as tag and microchip information.
- Build a pet emergency kit that includes a leash/pet restraint, pet carrier, pet food and water (for three days), collapsible food and water dishes, a favourite toy, copies of vaccination records, a photo for ID and any necessary medications.
- Talk to your neighbours. Arrange for someone to check on your pet in case you’re not home.
- For complete information specific to pet preparedness, visit www.gov.bc.ca/PreparedBC