

# 3Rs

## Disaster Prevention for Your Pets

Ready - Refuge - Responsibility



Specified Nonprofit Corporation ANICE (Animal Navigation In Case of Emergency)

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## Introduction

In Japan, various kinds of disaster can happen at any time. Disasters could be caused by heavy rain storms, snow storms, volcanic eruptions, typhoons and earthquakes which we experience often. In addition to explosions and fire in a nuclear plant and chemical factory accidents, there are disasters caused by humans, such as terrorist attacks.

We can predict in advance for some of these natural disasters. If we follow the weather forecast and warnings from weather experts, we should be able to protect ourselves by evacuating on time to a safe shelter or by taking necessary prevention measures at home.

However, sometimes disasters such as tornadoes, earthquakes and man caused disasters hit our lives without any warning. A big earthquake can cause catastrophic damage in a very wide range.

In a major disaster, it might take several days before any rescue efforts arrive to all disaster areas. Therefore, it is necessary for us to be prepared for emergencies and to protect our families, ourselves and also our pets. Pet owners should be responsible for their pets as much as their family.

Animal Navigation In Case of Emergency (ANICE) has important information for pet owners that could help to save you and your pet's life. After 12 years of research and experience at the actual damaged areas, we have gathered valuable information that we would like to share with all pet owners.

The following suggestions could save your pet's life when disaster strikes. It's easy. Follow the 3 Rs

**R**

### READY

Be ready for a disaster. Plan in advance and get ready for a disaster.

**R**

### REFUGE

Refuge together. Take your pets with you.

It means to take your pets with you when you are evacuating to a safe place. (It does not necessary mean "Living together with pets at a refuge site.") Don't leave them behind. This is for the safety of animals as well as people.

In case of a disaster, you need to secure your own and your family's safety first. ANICE will keep promoting "Refuge Together with Your Pet" as we have been doing since 2001. But this becomes possible only after securing your own safety.

**R**

### RESPONSIBILITY

Be a responsible pet owner for society.

Your pet can be the charm or the damage for society. Disciplined animals will be loved by others but non disciplined animals can harm or can cause stress to other people. You should be responsible to discipline and socialize your pets in daily life so that they also can be good members for society.

We are reaching out to you, animal lovers, in an effort to promote the best way to stay safe and protect yourself, your family and your pets in times of disaster.

# 1

## When Disaster Occurs

### Anybody can be a victim of a disaster

In the event of a major disaster, there are lots of people in deep sorrow by losing their loving ones, houses and belongings. There are some who are worried about their missing families. There are some who could not do anything but to watch their family being sucked into tsunami. There are some who had to give up rescuing someone from the heavy broken houses and watched everything being burnt to ashes. We must pay special attention to these people.

Even enthusiastic animal lovers may become unable to think about their pets under severe circumstances. That's what "being a victim of a disaster". Some people might say "how can we think about animal rescue when we cannot even rescue people around us?"

There are some who lost their lives trying to save their pets. There are some depressed people because they could not save their pets.

At the same time, there are some who says holding his pet, "I can live because of it".

There are some who are feeling relieved by being able to take out their pets while they lost many other things.

Animals can comfort the pain of victims and give power to overcome the sorrow.

Therefore, the supply/ care/ medical support for animals is not only for the animal welfare but also for the owners.



► Many cities and towns were devastated by the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011

In the Act on animal welfare and management, the roles of the State and animal welfare officers in a case of disaster are clearly written. It also states that the owners are responsible to take care of their pets until the last day so that they won't harm people and their belongings or cause troubles to others.

## Think and plan in advance

Before you have a pet, it's necessary to consider the number and kind of animals you can be responsible in an emergency. You should be prepared to take your pets with you and not let them be vagrant. You should not be forced to remain in a dangerous place with your pets or to go back to look for them after you evacuate once. It is important to plan in advance so that you can refuge together with your pets.

Thinking about disaster prevention measures for animals is an issue not only the state, veterinarian society and animal related groups but pet owners have to consider in advance. That is to take the social responsibility of being a pet owner.



▶ Memorial wooden statue hand curved by someone at Rikuzentakata Michi no Eki



▶ With flood damage, it is hard to be understood its gravity

## 2 Ready

### Be ready for an emergency in your daily life

Getting prepared to take your pets with you in an emergency and having several individual identifications on them will be very useful to find them in case you lose them.

The Internet is a strong tool in connecting the missing pets and their owners, but considering the fact there are some people who does not use the Internet, it is very important for the pets to have some kinds of individual identification marker on them all the time.

### Various Individual Identification Markers

Methods of individual identification include dog license, identification tags, collars, ribbons, and microchips. Out of these, a microchip is the most effective since it will always remain in your pet.



► Microchip is the best way of identification

### Let's keep photos of your pet in your cell phone

You can use them to make posters to look for the missing pet. Photos of its face, body, tail, surgical wound, and collar could help to identify it. Also the photos of you and your pet together would be useful to prove your ownership.

If your pet is under some medical treatment, it is recommended to take photos of the name, No, quantity of the medicine,



treatment records, and its results. These data would be useful in receiving medical treatment at refuge sites.

And it is recommended to keep these photos and data in your cell phone. There were many people who could take out their cell phones with them when they evacuated.



**Example 1** During Niigata Chuetsu Earthquake in 2004, the owners who lost their cats posted several memos asking for the information on their cats. Those cats were allowed to go in and out of the houses freely, and they usually came back home when they got hungry. But after the earthquake, many cats had hard time getting back home. Those hidden cats got scared and ran further after every aftershock and ended up getting to where they could not come back. For one of them, it took 4 months before coming home.

The feeding activity by volunteers to those animals can be one of the reasons to delay their return back home. Some were protected by the volunteers, but without any identification, they could not be returned to their owners and ended up being sent to a refuge site away from home.

The owners of missing pet spent many sleepless nights worrying. “They might be hurt, freezing, must be hungry”. So they kept seeking for any small information which could lead to their missing pets. Even if the information were not what they wanted to hear, they could at least stop worrying about their pets.

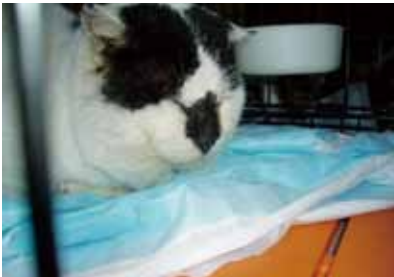


▶ Handmade posters asking for the information on the missing cats

## Keep your cats inside the house

If you wish your cat to live long and healthy, it is recommended to keep it indoor. It can prevent from getting infected and injured. If it is kept inside the house, it's easier to escape together in case of a disaster. That would be one of the disaster prevention measures you can take as a pet owner.

There are more possibilities for cats to get infected with diseases outside and if it is infected to FIV and FeLV, it would be harder to find a new owner in case it's separated from the current owner in a disaster.



▶ "Yamakoshi #1" was later named "Boss" and given to a new family

### Example 2

In 2004 Niigata Chuetsu Earthquake, total evacuation was decided by Yamakoshi Village. The first male cat protected there in Nov. was named "Yamakoshi #1". Since the owner could not be found, they started to look for a new owner. However, he was over 8 years old and with FIV positive, it took 1.5 year before he was finally accepted by a nice family.

## Discipline your pets in everyday life

Socializing your pet and doing crate training is not only necessary for an emergency but also for its happy daily life. A friendly animal is more likely to be protected and loved by many people than unfriendly one. It is also important to bring up your pet to feel comfortable in a crate. If your pet can feel relaxed in a crate anytime, it can protect itself and reduce its stress at the time of emergency. Because animals are more likely to be kept in cages at refuge sites. In another words, socializing and disciplining your pet in everyday life is one of the disaster prevention measures you can take as a responsible pet owner.

This is where I can relax the most!





## Plan in advance about your pets if you are going to be away

When you are going to leave your pets with someone, it is necessary to plan in advance for emergencies. You should inform your pet sitter several numbers so he can get hold of you somehow in times of emergency. And it is important to have the mutual consent by several people including your pet sitter, your relatives and friends on your plans.

### Example 3

When the Great East Japan Earthquake hit Soma City in Fukushima, an owner of a dog salon evacuated with his customer's dog. The damages caused by tsunami and the nuclear power plant accident made the evacuation period longer than expected. Including his own dogs, there were 4 dogs and 19 year old son with him in a small car. Since animals were not allowed

at the refuge site, they had to spend days in his car. It was very severer living circumstance in a cold northern Japan in Feb.

Even after he could get hold of the dog's owner, he was asked to keep the dog until the dog's owner gave up living with his dog and it was given to a new owner in Oct. 2012, 19months after the earthquake. It was very faithful of him to keep someone's dog for such a long time, but it must have been very hard during that long evacuation period without any prospects for the future.



► After arriving at the refuge site in Ichikawa, getting an examination for radiation dose

At public shelters, cats are most likely to be kept in cages in order to control the individual record. Although some shelters have playrooms for cats, the prolonged evacuation period could cause a lack of exercise and increase the stress on cats. Deferent from dogs, cats cannot go on a walk to get out their stresses, so we recommend you to consider moving them to a new living environment where they can live happily at your earliest convenience. It is wise to consider such places (ex: veterinary hospitals, friends, relatives) in advance for an emergency.

# 3 Refuge

## How animals should be kept at refuge site?

Can you imagine how the refuge life would be in times of disaster?

There are several types of refuge site, temporary refuge, accommodation refuge and temporary housing. And the rules about animals varies according to each refuge site.



► Many people are at a refuge site



► Dogs being chained outside of people's living space

There are sites where separate living areas are prepared for people with pets and people without.

There are sites where animals are chained outside near the door, close to the owners.

There are sites where separate shelter is made for animals.

There are some people who keeps the pets in the car.

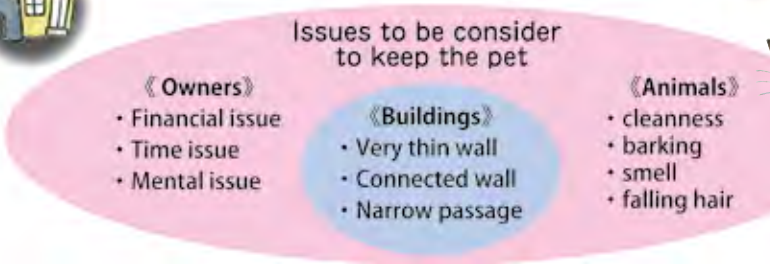
Meow



### Problems of keeping pets at refuge site and temporary housing



Meow



## Habitat Segregation

At refuge site, there are many people who are deeply hurt. Some are injured and some are sick with needs of medical care. Some are allergic to animals. Therefore, it is important to separate those with animals from those who cannot be with animals in order to realize a comfortable refuge life for everyone.

It is understandable to keep the constant barking dogs and crying cats in carry bags outside. At one refuge site, there was a sad case where the owner did let his small dog roam inside and that caused all other animals to evacuate from there.



Even though, your pet is part of your important family, it may be not for others in a refuge site. You have to be aware of that and understand it is important to live separately in order to share comfortable life for both people and animals.

### Example 4

When Higashi Matsushima was hit by Great East Japan Earthquake, pets were not allowed at the refuge site (the elementary school) but the things necessary for the pets were supplied to the owners. It is a good example of people and their pets living separately in a refuge site and in their houses.

At a refuge site in Koriyama, animals were kept inside of the facility at the beginning, but later moved to a special animal shelter made with the supplied tents. It's a good example of realizing a comfortable refuge life by having separate living spaces.



► Special tent shelter for the refugees with their pets

## Separate lines of movement for people and animals

After separating the living areas for people and animals, it is important to consider separating the lines of movement. To have separate Entrance/Exit for people and animals is good to separate their movement. If your refuge site is an elementary school, you need special attention. Your pet should not go close to the students.

And make your pet go to the toilet in a designated place and keep the place always very clean. You also have to be careful with its excrements when you take your dog for a walk.



### Example 5

With Great East Japan Earthquake and the nuclear plant accident, the damage varied to wide area and many victims evacuated into Tokyo area. The refuge sites prepared the separate animal shelters for the pets.

Akasaka Prince Hotel was one of those where they provided their basement restaurant as an animal shelter. Since it was located between the victim's laundry room and dump site, some dogs scared people by barking every time they walk to the laundry room or to the dump. And the smell of animals caused complaints of some people.



▶ The elevator button of Akasaka Prince Hotel, the animal shelter was located between the laundry room and dump site

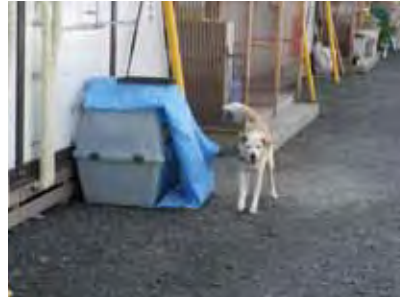
## At a temporary housing

The first step of getting people's understanding on "Refuge together with your pets" is to take good care of your pets in an accurate way as a responsible member of community in your daily life. Because you are most likely to evacuate together with the members of your community.

One housing community allows people to keep their pets inside the house while other decided to have a common pet space in their community. People can talk about the problems to be solved and decide by themselves how to keep the harmony between people with pets and without pets.



▶ Temporary housings in Nigata



▶ Temporary housings in Sendai

**Example 6**

At one temporary housing community, the barking of dogs were bothering some people. The dog owners gathered and built a special doghouse away from the housings and local high school students painted nice pictures on its wall. It is a good example of people working together to solve the problem by themselves.



▶ The doghouse wall painted by H.S. students

Niigata is known for having taken several advanced animal relief measures at time of Niigata Chuetsu Earthquake. Pets were allowed at the temporary housings and even the refuge site especially for pet owners was built. In Niigata, people moved in the temporary housings as a group from their original local community. Since people had known each other already, it was easy for them to decide their own rules of the community to live comfortably with their pets.

# 4 Responsibility

What are your responsibilities as a pet owner in terms of disaster prevention measures?

Is it enough to prepare the prevention supplies for pets?

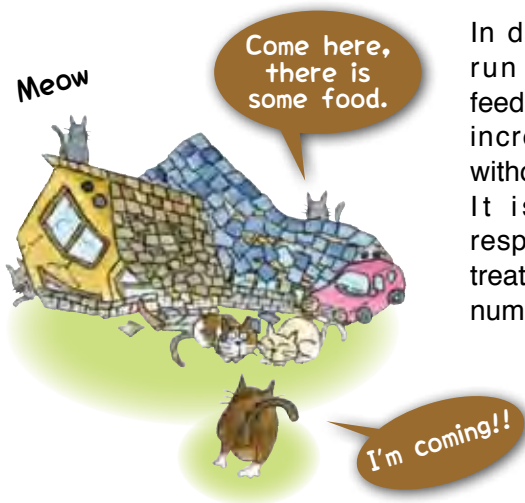
Is it to discipline your pets?

Or, is it to protect your pets?

## ■ For your pets and society

One of your responsibilities as a pet owner is to take good care of your pet. Once you decided to have a pet, you should be committed to take care of it throughout your life even many things could happen to change the circumstances.

In addition to that, you also have a responsibility in society as a pet owner. We believe that you should take your pets with you as much as possible in times of disaster. It will be possible only after you secure the safety of yourself and your family. To be ready for a disaster in many ways so your pets won't cause any troubles to others is another owner's responsibility for society.



In damaged areas, animals which run away wander around. With feeding activities, the number of them increases by breeding with ones without breeding limit castellation . It is one of the pet owners responsibilities to have anti fertility treatment on your pets to control the number.



### Example 7

Unprecedented nuclear power plant accident in Fukushima caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake made many animals to be left behind at the damaged area for a very long time.

Other similar case was Mt.Oyama's Eruption on Miyake Island, where it took 5 years before evacuated people could go back to the island. During those years, animal feeding activities and restriction on the breeding of the animals were done.

Any restoration work cannot even start until a nuclear power plant accident or a volcano eruption settled down. It sometimes takes very long before people can go back home especially after a big disaster. During the absence of their owners, the number of animals being left behind increases by breeding. And they sometimes intimidate people by crowding or start to live in empty houses.



► In the empty village near Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant, there are damaged cars by tsunami being left for years

### Example 8

When the Great East Earthquake happened, radioactive material was widely scattered by the explosion of nuclear power plant in Fukushima. 2 months after the total evacuation of the village, people were allowed to go back home for few hours to take out some personal belongings.

When they went into the empty village, they found many roaming animals,



► The cat owners went back to their houses in restricted area in order to protect the cats



► In Yamakoshi Village, an empty house became the feeding place for cats with enough food for a week

not only pet dogs and cats but cows, pigs and even ostriches to gather around people for food. At one house, a big dog scared the owner away because it had just given birth in that empty house. At another house, the owner could not go inside to get anything because of a decayed dead body of big dog and its terrible smell.

## Making decisions in the best interests of your pets

When a disaster hit you and you lose the place to live, you might have to leave your pet to a shelter. It is sometimes not easy to rebuild your life to be able to live with it again and it might take longer than you expect. During those years, your pet will be waiting for you at a shelter. For some animals, they end up spending their lives in a shelter waiting for the owners to come.



▶ Meeting of new families with the disaster victim animals



▶ Cat waiting for a new owner

Therefore, when your refuge life is prolonged, you should think what the best for your pet is. Of course, it is ideal for the family and the pet to be able to live together again after rebuilding its life. However, it is not that easy for some families who are severely damaged by a disaster.

When you have lost many things including your house, belongings, and family members, you want to keep at least your pet. However, if it is difficult, you should make up your mind to let it start a new life with a new family.

It is your responsibility as a pet owner to always think in the best interests of your pet.

### Example 9

One young mother told me with tears after being hit by a disaster, “I want to live with our dog. However, I have to work every day from early in the morning for my family. I have no time to walk our dog and no financial leeway for giving him enough medical care. That’s why we finally decided to give up keeping our dog and to give him a chance to be happy with a new family. That is the best we can do for him now.” This mother’s decision was coming from her deep love toward her dog.





**We will never forget  
that day.**



## Conclusion:

In this booklet, we have introduced some of the actual cases we have seen at times of disaster. These things might happen to you at next disaster. You now understand the importance of being prepared for a disaster in order to protect you, your family and your pets.

Just like deciding the rules on how to keep you pet animals in the community and disciplining them, considering some disaster prevention measures for animals is one of the keys to realize a society for both people and animals living in harmony.

ANICE will continue to think and support the disaster prevention measures for animals so we all can live happily with animals even at the hard time of disaster.



## ANICE:

Specified Nonprofit Corporation ANICE (Animal Navigation in Case of Emergency) is a civic network which was founded in 2002 in order to promote people to think about disaster prevention for animals and the pet owners.

We have been considering what and how we should be prepared for disasters in our daily lives. Our advices include the ways to survive the first 5 days after a disaster hit us, the importance of evacuating together with pets and some ideas to have comfortable refuge life with animals.

### 《ANICE Activities》

2001: Disaster Rescue Support Center for Animals in Miyakejima Eruption

2004: Investigation activities at Niigata Chuetsu Earthquake

2007: Investigation activities at Noto Peninsula Earthquake

2008: Investigation activities at Iwate-Miyagi Nairiku Earthquake

2011: Local Support Team of Disaster Animal Relief Headquarter in Great East Japan Earthquake

2011: Disaster Rescue Support Center for Animals in Tokyo

2012: Committee member of "Preparation of the Manual and Records of Disaster Suffered Animals" (by Ministry of the Environment)

2013: Support the "Refuge Together" at Izu Oshima Typhoon #26 and #27



Since that day, my life has changed greatly

By unexpected sudden disaster

Lost everything, my family, house and precious memories

But you are here with me

With you, I can start to walk again

# Animal Navigation In Case of Emergency

## ANICE — A refuge together with pets



### 3Rs

#### Disaster Prevention for Your Pets

Ready - Refuge - Responsibility

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