IS YOUR GREYHOUND DISASTER READY?

Preparing your greyhound for severe weather and emergencies

Queensland's weather can be unpredictable, with storms, flooding, cyclones, bushfires, and extreme heat posing possible risks to our families and our our pets.

While we can't control the weather, we can take steps to ensure our greyhounds are safe, comfortable, and that we are prepared if disaster strikes.

As responsible greyhound owners, it's important to include your four-legged family members in your household emergency plan. A little preparation now can make a significant difference when severe weather approaches.

10 ways to prepare your greyhound

1. Prepare an emergency kit

Keep a dedicated emergency kit for your greyhound in an easily accessible, waterproof container. It should include:

- At least 3–7 days' supply of your greyhound's regular food
- Bottled drinking water and portable bowls
- Lead, secure collar and harness
- Bedding, blankets, and familiar toys
- Any required medications and veterinary instructions
- Poo bags, cleaning supplies, and towels
- A basic pet first aid kit
- A recent photograph of your greyhound.



2. Make sure identification is up to date

Check that your greyhound's microchip registration and contact details are current. Ensure their council registration details are also correct and that they are wearing an identification tag with your contact number.

3. Know where you will go

Identify pet-friendly evacuation accommodation before an emergency occurs. This could include family or friends, or an emergency animal shelter. Remember, not all evacuation centres accept animals.

4. Plan safe transport

Ensure you have a suitable vehicle and enough space to safely transport your greyhound. Practise getting your greyhound into the vehicle so they are familiar with the process. If you have multiple pets, plan how you will transport them all.

5. Keep familiar items close

Greyhounds can become unsettled during unfamiliar and stressful situations. Their favourite bedding, toys and familiar food can provide comfort and reassurance when their surroundings change.

6. Be prepared for power outages

Severe weather can cause extended power interruptions. Consider how you will keep your greyhound cool during extreme heat, particularly if you rely on air conditioning. Never leave your greyhound unattended in a vehicle.

7. Secure your property

Before severe weather arrives, check fencing, gates, and outdoor enclosures. Bring loose items inside and ensure your greyhound has access to a safe, secure indoor area. Frightened greyhounds may attempt to escape during storms.

8. Keep veterinary information handy

Have your regular veterinarian's contact details, vaccination records, medication information, and relevant medical history readily available. Keep copies electronically and in your emergency kit.

9. Take extra care during and after a disaster

Keep your greyhound securely restrained when outside, as damaged fencing, debris, unfamiliar noises, and changed surroundings can increase the risk of escape or injury. Avoid floodwaters and areas with fallen powerlines or other hazards.



10. Stay informed

Monitor official weather warnings and emergency advice through the Bureau of Meteorology, Queensland Fire Department, and local council emergency updates. If authorities advise evacuation, take your greyhound with you. Never leave them behind.

Don't forget your greyhound's individual needs!

Greyhounds have some particular considerations when preparing for emergencies:

- **Temperature regulation:** Their lean bodies and short coats mean they may need extra protection from cold weather, including warm coats and bedding.
- **Secure handling:** Always use a secure collar or martingale collar and lead. A frightened greyhound can be surprisingly quick and may slip out of an ordinary collar.
- **Anxiety and stress:** Storms, thunder, unfamiliar people, and disrupted routines can be unsettling. Familiar bedding and a calm environment can help.
- **Medication and dietary needs:** Pack enough of their usual food and medication to last several days.

A little preparation goes a long way!

Disasters can happen quickly, and having a plan in place can help protect your greyhound and give you peace of mind.

Take a few minutes this week to check your emergency supplies, update your greyhound's identification details and make sure you know where you would go if you needed to evacuate.

Remember: If it's not safe for you, it's not safe for your greyhound. Include them in your emergency plan – they are part of the family!

For Queensland emergency information, visit Get Ready Queensland and Bureau of Meteorology.

