



Lightfoot Ragdolls

and Cherubims

***EMERGENCY EVACUATION SITUATIONS**

Heaven forbid it happens to you, but I have heard of so many emergency situations recently, most of which are weather related, but it could be a fire in your home, also. Do you have a plan? I know a lady that does rescues and has several of her own pets. She has a sign on her door that says she has x number of cats and x number of dogs inside. For the rescues that are isolated, she lists which room the animal is in. She lists where carriers are for each animal. I don't do that, but if you feel so inclined, go for it.

That said, we recently had a big hail storm and some flooding in our area. Our home didn't get any flooding, but people 4 blocks west did. The condos on the bottom floor had up to 3 feet of water. If you have a cat and there's something tall they can get to, that may be okay, but if they are in a basement that floods to the ceiling, they will need a way out. I have kept a majority of my carriers in the attic, but after this incident, I decided that may not be a good idea. It will take me too long to get in the attic and get the carriers down. Being a breeder, there would be several that I needed to get them all out safely. I may be able to put 2 cats in one larger carrier. I'm not sure in a stressful situation if they will handle that very well, though. I could definitely put a whole litter in a large carrier.

*Evaluate what you would need to do in your home in an emergency. If there is a fire or flood, how are you going to get out, where are you meeting family members and how are you going to get your animals out?

*Take some time and figure out your cat's favorite spots to hide. In an emergency situation, they may hide and you may not have a lot of time to look for them.

*Have a carrier handy.

*I would keep a bottle of water in the carrier, or better yet, have a go-bag for your pets. It could be a backpack by your carrier you can grab quickly. If you put a small ziplock of dry food in there, make sure you rotate it occasionally so it's fresh. You could also keep a few cans of wet food in there—again check the expiration date on occasion. You could keep a gallon ziplock by your dry food (bag/container) so you can fill it quickly and go, or if it's small enough to grab, to do that. Because we use food that needs to be ordered, I would want to

have some with me because I can't just go to the store and pick some up. I would need some available until I could get more ordered.

*Maybe also have a blanket by or in the carrier or backpack that smells like home.

*It may be good to arrange in advance a temporary place to house your animals until you can live back in your house, if it's damaged. Talk to a family member, friend or neighbor that would be willing to take them in an emergency, kind of like you do with your kids. Often if you have to go to a hotel, they will not allow animals.

I hope you never need this advice!!!

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