ADDENDUM K

Pet Evacuation & Shelter: Zero to Full Competency

Curious how Tier, Stage, and Phase relate? See the Glossary.

Why This Addendum Exists

Chapter 12 tells you what to have and do at each tier of a disruption for your pets. It does not build the actual medical and handling competency that makes those plans work when a vet isn't available, an animal is injured, or a household is coordinating fostering for someone else's pets. This addendum is a skill-building curriculum for exactly that, built from real certifications and Utah programs.

It's organized by skill stage, not by disaster duration, following the same structure as the other addenda. Treat the self-check at the end of each stage as the actual gate.

Four stages: Foundations (basic safe practice), Applied Practice (hands-on competence), Self-Sufficiency (independent, resilient skill), and Mastery & Teaching (able to teach others and operate at community scale). Each stage covers two sub-skill tracks that run in parallel: pet medical care, and animal handling and behavior.

Stage 1: Foundations (Awareness)

Goal: know the core pet safety facts well enough to not make an emergency worse, and understand what real resources exist. This stage is readable in a weekend.

Pet Medical: Core Knowledge

The core concept at this stage is recognizing that pets can't self-report symptoms, so distress signs (lethargy, excessive panting, hiding, changes in appetite) are the actual signal, not a verbal complaint. Review Chapter 12's human-medication poisoning warning and flea/tick species-warning notes until they're automatic, since these are common, preventable, and genuinely dangerous mistakes.

Animal Handling: Core Knowledge

The core concept at this stage is stress recognition: an otherwise calm pet is measurably more likely to bite, scratch, or bolt when frightened or injured, which is exactly why Chapter 12's first aid kit includes a muzzle even for calm pets. Understand basic body language (a dog's stiff body and whale-eye versus loose wagging, a cat's flattened ears and tail position) well enough to recognize escalating stress before it becomes a bite.

Stage 1 Learning Path

Resource	Cost / Format	Notes
ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center resources	Free to review; consultation fee may apply	aspca.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control. Already cited in Chapter 12; review common household toxins before an emergency.
AVMA PETS Act FAQ	Free, online	avma.org/pets-act-faq. Already cited in Chapter 12; understand what legal protection actually exists and its limits.
Basic canine/feline body language guides (ASPCA or Fear Free)	Free, online	fearfreepets.com and aspca.org both publish accessible stress-signal guides.

Stage 1 Practice Exercises

- **Pet-proof your medication storage:** Physically verify your Medical Care chapter's medication supplies are stored where pets genuinely cannot access them, not just assumed to be safe.
- **Practice reading your own pet's stress signals:** Watch your own pet in a mildly stressful situation (a vet visit, a loud noise) and consciously identify the body language before, during, and after.
- **Confirm your pet's ID is current:** Verify microchip registration and collar tags are current and correct today, not on the Chapter 12 checklist's annual schedule.

Self-Check: Ready for Stage 2?

You should be able to name the specific human medications and products that are toxic to pets from memory, and describe your own pet's specific stress-escalation signals without having to actively watch for them.

Stage 2: Applied Practice (Competent)

Goal: hold a real certification and have practiced actual handling and first aid skills, not just read about them.

Pet Medical: Applied Practice

- **Get Red Cross Cat and Dog First Aid certified:** A 35-minute online course covering vital signs, preventative care, and emergency response for breathing/cardiac emergencies, wounds, bleeding, and seizures; digital certification on completion. Low-barrier and worth every household member completing, not just one designated pet caretaker. See the Pet Evacuation & First Aid Basics skill guide for the same core skills alongside evacuation-specific planning.
- **Practice actual wound care and bandaging on a real (calm) animal:** Under safe, low-stakes conditions, practice applying a bandage and checking vital signs on your own pet, so the first time isn't during a real injury.
- **Build and test your pet first aid kit:** Confirm every item in Chapter 12's kit is actually present and that you know how to use each one, particularly the muzzle and styptic powder. The Pet Evacuation & First Aid Basics skill guide covers what belongs in that kit and why.

Animal Handling: Applied Practice

- **Practice carrier loading under time pressure:** Time yourself loading your pet into its carrier as if evacuating; if it takes longer than a couple of minutes or requires a struggle, that's a real gap to close before an emergency, not after.
- **Volunteer a shift at a local animal shelter:** Salt Lake County Animal Services and the Humane Society of Utah (both already cited in Chapter 12) rely on volunteers and are a genuinely good, low-commitment way to practice handling unfamiliar animals safely under supervision.
- **Practice de-escalation with a stressed animal:** Under supervision (a shelter volunteer shift is ideal for this), practice recognizing and responding to an animal's escalating stress signals before it reaches a bite or scratch.

Stage 2 Learning Path

Resource	Cost / Format	Notes
Red Cross Cat and Dog First Aid Online	~$25	redcross.org/take-a-class/first-aid/cat-dog-first-aid. Self-paced, desktop/tablet compatible.
Salt Lake County Animal Services volunteer program	Free to volunteer	Already cited in Chapter 12's Northern Utah Note; contact directly for current volunteer opportunities.
Humane Society of Utah volunteer program	Free to volunteer	Already cited in Chapter 12's Northern Utah Note; a genuine hands-on handling practice opportunity.

Self-Check: Ready for Stage 3?

You should hold Red Cross Cat and Dog First Aid certification, have practiced real bandaging and vital-sign checks on your own pet, and have handled at least one unfamiliar animal safely under supervision (a shelter shift is the easiest way to get this).

Stage 3: Self-Sufficiency (Proficient)

Goal: genuine independent capability to manage a pet medical situation or unfamiliar animal without a vet or professional trainer present, the actual skill level Chapter 12's Tier 2 and Tier 3 assume a household has.

Pet Medical: Self-Sufficiency

- **Take an in-person, deeper pet first aid course if available:** Some Utah veterinary clinics and training organizations offer in-person pet first aid/CPR courses beyond the Red Cross online format; the hands-on manikin practice (similar to human CPR training) builds muscle memory the online course can't.
- **Learn basic triage logic for pets:** Cross-reference Chapter 12's Tier 2 triage guidance; practice actually applying the "emergency vs. wait-and-monitor" decision framework to hypothetical scenarios until it's fast.
- **Understand species-specific dosing and drug-interaction basics:** Chapter 12's Tier 2 already flags that non-veterinary-labeled antibiotics are an unregulated last resort with real species-specific risk; build enough real pharmacology literacy to understand why, not just accept the caution.

Animal Handling: Self-Sufficiency

- **Pursue foundational dog training knowledge:** Programs like Animal Behavior College or Karen Pryor Academy teach science-based, positive-reinforcement training methods that build genuinely reliable handling skill, well beyond casual pet ownership experience.
- **Build real experience with a range of animal temperaments:** Continued, regular shelter volunteering (beyond the single Stage 2 shift) builds pattern recognition across many different animals' stress responses that a single household's pets can't provide.
- **Understand basic livestock/large-animal handling if relevant:** If your household's Tier 3 plan includes small livestock (cross-reference Addendum A's poultry guidance), large-animal handling is a genuinely different skill set from companion-animal handling; don't assume it transfers automatically.

Stage 3 Learning Path

Resource	Cost / Format	Notes
In-person pet first aid/CPR course (local vet clinics, PetTech, ProPetHero)	Course fees vary, typically $75–$150	Search for current in-person providers in your area; hands-on manikin practice is the key differentiator from the online course.
Animal Behavior College dog training program	Program fees vary, multi-month	animalbehaviorcollege.com. Prepares students for CCPDT national certification.
Karen Pryor Academy Certified Training Partner program	Program fees vary	karenpryoracademy.com. A well-regarded positive-reinforcement training program.

Self-Check: Ready for Stage 4?

You should have completed in-person hands-on pet first aid training, be comfortable applying triage logic to a hypothetical pet emergency without hesitation, and have real, repeated experience handling animals beyond your own pets.

Stage 4: Mastery & Teaching (Expert)

Goal: professional-level credentials, the ability to teach others, and real capacity to lead community-scale pet response. This is the stage Chapter 12's Tier 4 (distributed pet first aid, fostering network, reunification coordination) actually depends on.

Teaching & Certification

- **Pursue veterinary technician training:** Utah State University's Veterinary Technology A.S. degree (Logan) is the only AVMA-accredited program in the state; Broadview University (Layton) and Bridgerland Technical College (Logan) offer additional program options. Utah itself doesn't license vet techs, but national certification through the AAVSB's Veterinary Technician National Exam (VTNE) is the recognized professional credential. This is a serious, multi-year commitment, appropriate if pet/animal care is becoming a real vocation.
- **Pursue CPDT-KA (Certified Professional Dog Trainer) certification:** Requires 300 hours of documented training experience plus a knowledge-based exam through the Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers (CCPDT); the recognized professional standard for dog training specifically.
- **Teach pet first aid to your neighborhood:** A short, repeatable pet first aid and evacuation-kit walkthrough, taught to several neighbors at once, is what actually builds Chapter 12's Tier 4 distributed capability rather than leaving it concentrated in one household.

Community-Scale Practice

- **Build the emergency fostering network described in Chapter 12's Tier 4:** Chapter 12 calls for a rostered network of households willing to foster pets if their owners are incapacitated or displaced; Stage 4 is where you help organize and formalize that roster, not just list it as a goal.
- **Extend the household photo-ID reunification system to community scale:** Chapter 12's Tier 4 calls for a shared reunification system beyond one household; Stage 4 competency includes actually helping design how lost-pet information gets shared and matched across a wider area.
- **Connect formally with local shelters' existing disaster protocols:** Chapter 12's Northern Utah Note already points to Salt Lake County Animal Services and the Humane Society of Utah's existing coordination; Stage 4 is where you have an actual working relationship with these organizations before a disaster, not a cold contact during one.

Stage 4 Learning Path

Resource	Cost / Format	Notes
USU Veterinary Technology A.S. degree	2-year program; tuition applies	usu.edu/degrees-majors/veterinary-technology_as. The only AVMA-accredited program in Utah, based in Logan.
AAVSB Veterinary Technician National Exam (VTNE)	Exam fee applies	aavsb.org. The recognized national credential for veterinary technicians.
CCPDT CPDT-KA certification	300 hours experience required; exam fee applies	ccpdt.org/certification. The recognized professional dog-training credential.

Self-Check: Have You Actually Arrived?

The real test of Stage 4 isn't the credential; it's whether your neighborhood has an actual rostered fostering network because you helped build it, and whether you've taught pet first aid to at least one other household that has since used it independently.

A Suggested Learning Sequence

The two tracks (medical, handling) don't have to move at the same pace. As a rough guide, not a requirement:

- **Weeks 1–2:** Stage 1: pet-proof medication storage, learn your pet's stress signals, confirm ID is current.
- **1–3 months:** Stage 2: get Red Cross Cat and Dog First Aid certified, practice carrier loading, volunteer a first shelter shift.
- **6–12 months:** Stage 3: complete in-person pet first aid training, begin foundational dog training coursework, build repeated shelter volunteer experience.
- **Ongoing:** Stage 4: pursue vet tech or CPDT-KA certification if animal care is becoming a real vocation, and start teaching pet first aid to neighbors while helping formalize a local fostering network.

At a Glance: Pet Evacuation & Shelter Deep Dive

A single-page reference for planning purposes. This does not replace the detailed guidance above; use it to see how the four stages scale, and cross-reference against Chapter 12's tiers, which describe what a household needs to have and do rather than how skilled it needs to be.

Stage	Focus	Key Milestone	Primary Resource
Stage 1: Foundations	Toxin awareness and stress-signal recognition, no certification yet	Can name pet-toxic medications and read your own pet's stress signals from memory	ASPCA Animal Poison Control resources
Stage 2: Applied Practice	Standardized certification and low-stakes handling practice	Holds Red Cross Cat and Dog First Aid certification; handled an unfamiliar animal safely	Red Cross Cat and Dog First Aid
Stage 3: Self-Sufficiency	Hands-on medical training and broad handling experience	Completed in-person pet first aid training; comfortable applying triage logic	In-person pet first aid, positive-reinforcement training programs
Stage 4: Mastery & Teaching	Professional credential, community fostering network	Helped formalize a local fostering roster; taught pet first aid to a neighbor	USU Vet Tech program, CPDT-KA certification