

## **ANIMALS IN EMERGENCIES**

Floods, fires and other emergencies can happen at any time and with little warning. Your animals will influence your decisions to relocate or evacuate in a timely manner from the threat of danger to you or your property. Please read through this brochure to:

- Determine the risk to your family and animals
- Make a plan ... and include your animals
- Plan where you are taking your animals
- Plan how you will move your animals and how you will get there
- Ensure you can identify your animals
- Prepare a 'Grab and Go' kit • Prepare a plan B for when you or your family are not at home
- Understand the warnings ... and act early
- Promote your "Animal Ready Community"
- Find out where to get advice.

### **What can you do as an animal owner to be prepared?**

Over 90% of owners consider their animals to be family. In an emergency, your animals will influence your decision to relocate or evacuate in a timely manner. Most people have close bonds with their animals and will want to save them in an emergency — even if that means putting their own safety in danger. So it is important to be prepared, and to have plans for what you will do in an emergency, like a flood or bush fire. Are your animals part of your plans for what to do in an emergency?

Remember, you are responsible for your animals. Don't expect someone to come and rescue them for you. Your best approach is:

- Understand your level of risk
- Have a plan and be as self-reliant as you can
- Discuss your plan with your family, friends and neighbours
- Be alert to worsening weather conditions and official warnings
- Plan to take all your animals with you
- Leave early.

### **Make a Plan**

Remember: In an emergency you are responsible for the welfare of your animals. You are also responsible for managing your animals so they do not present a danger to other people or animals.

What should my plan include for my animals?

- A plan for early relocation of your animals to a safer place
- A plan on where to take your family and pets — Friends? Family? Sporting clubs? Remember to practice your plan at least once a year

### **Animal identification**

Permanently identify your animals. This will help reunite you and your animals if separated during an emergency.

- Microchips are best for most animals
- Ensure your personal details are up-to-date on a Pet Registry
- Take clear photos of your animals showing any distinct markings
- Place a collar on your smaller animals with your name and phone number
- Place ID tags or labels on any pet carriers. Ensure your small acreage has a Property Identification Code (PIC) A PIC number assists emergency services to know what animals you have in case of emergency

### **Prepare a 'Grab and Go' kit**

Prepare an evacuation kit for all your animals. It should be able to maintain your animals for 3 to 7 days. Consider restraint and transport, food, water, toileting, medications, first aid, housing and bedding:

- Cages or pet carriers for each animal; or
- Muzzle and leash; or lead rope and head collar for each animal
- 3-7 days of food and water for each animal
- Bowl or feed bucket
- Can opener and spoon
- Woollen blanket, towels or bedding
- Animal medications and first aid items
- Take a photo of your pet's vaccination certificate
- Litter and litter tray for cats
- Poo bag for dogs
- Toys and whatever else you feel is essential for the first 3 to 7 days.

Store your kit in an easily accessible location. If you can't store everything — have a checklist of what you need to grab before you go!

### **Always have a plan B**

What if you or your family are not at home? Make sure:

- Everyone who lives, works or agists at your property knows your plan
- Your neighbours, friends and family know your plan
- Spare keys to padlocked gates are available for others to use if necessary. Have a list of people you can call who are willing and able to help relocate or evacuate your animals if you are not at home.

### **Promote your "Animal Ready Community"**

Help other animal owners in your community to become "Animal Ready".

- Have a conversation with your neighbours about their plan for their animals in an emergency
- Have a conversation with your local pony club or sports club about what their plans are to relocate animals in an emergency
- Have a conversation with other owners where you agist your horse about what their plans are to relocate animals in an emergency
- Buddy-up with friends or neighbours and make plans to help each other if you are not there — or can't get back in an emergency
- Share this information with other animal owners
- Research your options — where could you relocate your animals that is outside your local area?
- Keep up to date with community initiatives — like 'Get Ready' events
- Join online communities — for example, animal related groups on Facebook where you can share ideas and plan to support each other in an emergency.

**Contact details** for Support during and after an emergency

- Emergency Management Hotline Freecall 1800 255 556
- Department of Primary Industries Freecall 1800 931 314
- 
-

# EMERGENCY Grab & Go Bag FOR PETS

Being prepared so that you and your pets are ready for any emergency will ensure you can act quickly if you need to. An **Emergency Grab and Go Bag** should contain all the essential items your pets need to be cared for and comfortable.

**Crates, carriers, cages, or enclosures to contain and easily transport your pet:**



# What I will do with my animals during an Emergency

Animals need to go with you if you have to evacuate your home. It is safer for them and for you.

Please take a few minutes to complete this plan.

For further information go to

[www.getreadyanimals.nsw.gov.au](http://www.getreadyanimals.nsw.gov.au)

## STEP 1 What I will take for my animal(s) if we have to leave

Decide the essential things your animal(s) needs for 3-7 days. You may not be able to get home for a while. You can pack them into a *Grab and Go Bag*, so you are ready to leave quickly. Remember to take it with you wherever you go.

My Grab and Go Bag is located here:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food and Treats    | <input type="checkbox"/> Identification Tags                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bowls/Buckets/Tubs | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo with owner                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Any medicines      | <input type="checkbox"/> Toileting requirements              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Toys               | <input type="checkbox"/> Registration and vaccination papers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bedding            |  |

Microchipping your animal and registering them with the NSW Pet Registry at [www.petregistry.nsw.gov.au](http://www.petregistry.nsw.gov.au) will help reunite them with you if separated during an emergency.

## STEP 2 How I will contain and transport my animal(s)

Check you have enough crates, carriers, cages and leads. Also work out with your transport how many trips you will need to take.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crate/Carrier        | <input type="checkbox"/> Car/Float        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cage/Other container | <input type="checkbox"/> Friends Car      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lead/Harness         | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Transport |

Remember to secure/contain your animals asap, so they are safe while you get ready and close at hand so you can leave quickly.

## STEP 3 When and where I will go to be safe with my animal(s)

Leaving early and going to stay with family/friends is often most comfortable and convenient.

Evacuation centres may be opened and you can always take your animals along with you.

Stay informed by listening to ABC and local radio and going to the emergency service links provided below.

- ☐ I will be going to family/friends house with my animal(s). Their details are:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ If I am not home, our family/friend/neighbour knows what to do. Their details are:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ I will relocate my animal/livestock early to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## STEP 4 This plan is on my fridge, in my phone and given to my family/friend/neighbour

Names: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thanks for making a plan. Stay safe, and remember to leave early if you need to evacuate**