



An emergency could happen at any time so it is critical you prepare now to ensure your animals are protected. There are a variety of disasters that may place your animals in danger, including cyclones, bushfires, extreme weather and storms.

The RSPCA is here to offer you help and support to ensure your animals are prepared for an emergency. We hope the information below is helpful and encourages you to not only prepare for an evacuation now, but implement a practice run through of your emergency evacuation plan before it is needed.

In the event of a disaster, you will need to act quickly so a strategic plan for your animals is critical

Preparing your pets for evacuation

It is important you prepare your pets now for an evacuation. Things to consider are detailed below:

Microchip

Does your pet's microchip details have your current contact information including your mobile phone number? If the disaster affects your local area, is your microchip alternative contact in a different suburb? Microchips will help reunite you with lost dogs, cats and horses if you become separated.

Identification

Does your pet have clear identification including name and council registration tags? Fear may cause your animal to behave differently in an emergency situation, particularly if it can smell smoke or hear a disaster approaching. It may escape despite your best efforts, so clear identification with your pet's name and your mobile number is important to increase the chances of your pet being reunited with you.

Preventative medication

Is your pet fully vaccinated and wormed? Many boarding facilities will require proof of vaccination before accepting your pet for temporary accommodation.

Temporary accommodation

Where will you evacuate your pet to? Determine where you will evacuate your pets to now, whether that is a friend's property or a boarding facility. You will also need to contact your local council to find out what evacuation shelters in your area will accept animals.

Relocating your pet before a high risk day

Ensure your pet is contained when there is a high risk of emergency and consider relocating it as a precaution. It is safer to relocate your pet to temporary accommodation early rather than risking its safety.

Determining an emergency guardian

Identify someone close by who can action your evacuation plan if you are not home. This person may be a neighbour who is home during the day and a trusted person who you can leave keys with.

Transport

How will you transport your animals? Do you have a carry cage that is suitable for your small animals? Dogs and small animals should be kept with you (dogs on leads at all times) but cats are best relocated to temporary emergency accommodation for their own safety, such as a veterinary clinic, boarding facility or shelter. Transporting your horses will require more preparation so it is best to temporarily relocate or agist them on another property during high risk seasons.



Evacuation route

What route will you take to drive there and what if that route is blocked? Consider various access routes to exit the dangerous zone in your suburb.

Assembling a pet emergency kit

Ensure you have an emergency kit packed to provide for your pet's needs.

If you have been advised by emergency services to stay in your home, it is crucial that you keep your pets with you and ensure your pet emergency kit is close at hand.

Emergency Kit Should Include:

- Registration or licence papers
- Proof of Vaccinations
- Cages or carriers
- Food and water
- Toys
- Blankets, bedding and nesting materials
- Medications
- Recent photographs
- Collars, leads, harnesses, saddles etc
- Contact details for your vet, local RSPCA, council and alternative animal accommodation

Preparing livestock and horses

Wherever you choose to evacuate livestock and horses, it is critical you do so early, use suitable transport and gather all the items needed for your animals' stay including temporary fencing.

If you are unable to evacuate your livestock or horses, it is important you prepare a safe place for them to reside. This area should be large, have minimal vegetation, preferably contain a dam and have room for the animals to move freely. Confining livestock and horses or giving the animals access to roads may compromise their safety.

Prepare your animals before leaving the property by providing access to food and clean water in containers that are resistant to fire. Remove any equipment that may cause discomfort or pose a greater risk during the emergency, including horse rugs.