



Emergency Services information sheet

Pet care

Evacuating pets

Animals are the responsibility of their owners at all times, including in emergencies.

Evacuation centres will not accept pets other than assistance animals due to health and safety risks.

Owners are advised to plan ahead for the safety and welfare of their pets, horses and livestock (farm animals) well before disaster strikes.

The following information is designed to give pet owners throughout the State useful tips to guide them through the pet evacuation plan.

Plan for pets

When planning your own response to an emergency evacuation make sure you consider how pets will be managed.

Some factors to consider are:

- do you intend to stay or leave your property when a warning is issued?
- either way, at what point in the warning will you relocate your pets to a delegated, safer area?
- check with your local council or relevant emergency related agency whether a pet contingency plan is already in place
- coordinate a pet evacuation plan with your neighbours, friends and or relatives
- ensure your pets are properly identified and their routine vaccinations and all tags and registrations are up to date
- include the phone numbers of your vet, local animal welfare agency and the local ranger.

After a disaster

Following an emergency or disaster animals can be disoriented, frightened or aggressive.

If an animal is missing after an emergency or disaster, owners should check with their local pound, animal shelter or boarding kennel.

Photographs of your animal and records of identification devices/numbers will help in the search effort.

Other hints and tips

- don't leave animals in vehicles
- in hot conditions provide extra water
- aviaries should be fitted with overhead sprinklers for use in fires
- report details of injured native animals.

Further information

To find out more about pet care, animal welfare information and examples of pet plans and kits;

<https://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/safetyinformation/animalwelfare/Pages/default.aspx>

<https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/animalwelfare/animal-welfare-natural-disaster>

or your Local Government office.