



# Protect your Animals in an Emergency

## Lifestyle Block Owners

Same as you do with your family's Emergency Survival Kit, think first about the basics for your animals – food, water and warmth.

### Think about having two Emergency Survival Kits

**Home Kit** – contains everything you may need to stay at home for up to three days.

**Getaway Kit** – more portable and lightweight for when you need to leave quickly.

Make sure your kits are easy to grab in a hurry, and that everyone in the house knows where they are, including a neighbour.

Check your kits from time to time for expiry dates to ensure supplies stay fresh – particularly food, water and medicine items. Replace water every six months for freshness.

If where you are isn't safe for you, it isn't safe for your animals.

## Prepare for your Animals – checklist

### Emergency Survival Items

- ☐ **Food:** For large animals, store at least three days of feed somewhere dry e.g. silage, hay, pellets. And for your pets, store at least three days of non-perishable pet food (canned or dried) in an airtight or waterproof container – remember the can opener! And try to keep their food the same as what you normally feed them to avoid possible stomach upsets.
- ☐ **Water:** Store at least five days of water, additional to your family needs. Animals can drink more water than usual when stressed.
- ☐ **Medicines:** Store any extra medical supplies and special dietary needs or supplements in a waterproof container.
- ☐ **Veterinary/medical records:** Store copies of any medical and vaccination records in a waterproof container. Include your vet's name and phone number – in case you have to move your large animals to another property, or board or place your pets in foster care.
- ☐ **First Aid Kit:** In addition to your family needs, make up a first aid kit for your animals. And talk to your vet about any specific first aid requirements, like fly spray, antibiotic ointment and saline solution (separate to your families).
- ☐ **Blanket/bedding:** Familiar items, like favourite blanket or toy can help reduce stress for your pets.
- ☐ **Sanitation:** Include pet litter and litter box and any other useful items, like newspapers, paper towels, pooh bags, gloves and household bleach (to dilute).





See full First Aid Kit  
checklist [here](https://www.mpi.govt.nz).





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## Identification

-  **ID tag:** Add an ID tag to your pet's collar or for large animals, like horses, to their halter, lead and cover. Make sure the tag clearly shows their name, your name, phone number and (if room) your address. Include a backup in their Emergency Survival Kit.
-  **Registered and microchipped:** Make sure your pets, dogs and horses are microchipped and registered, and that dogs are wearing their current registration tag. Also check your animal ID is current and that your personal details are up to date on relevant microchip databases, including next of kin or someone outside of your household. For livestock, ensure your National Animal Identification and Tracing (NAIT) details are up to date. Store a copy of all documentation in your Emergency Survival Kit.

In the 2011 Canterbury earthquake 80 percent of microchipped animals were reunited with their owners versus 20 percent for non-chipped animals.




-  **Photograph:** Store a current photograph of your pets and horses in a waterproof container, including notes on any distinguishing features, name, sex, age, colour and breed. Also include a photograph of you and your animals together to help prove ownership if you get separated.
-  **Save information online:** For easy access from wherever you are, save all your important information – microchip, photographs, medical, veterinary and contact details – online e.g. Dropbox, mobile phone or web/gmail.

## Equipment

-  **Lead/halter/harness/muzzle:** And any other equipment that would help you move your pets and animals, particularly horses, in an emergency evacuation. Make sure the device is sturdy and has an ID tag attached. And dogs may need to be muzzled. Even if your dog is friendly, emergency personnel may refuse to handle them unless they're restrained.
-  **Cage/carrier:** For safe transportation and to prevent your animals, particularly pets, from escaping. The cage/carrier should be sturdy e.g. made from metal or plastic, not cardboard which may disintegrate if it gets wet. It should be large enough for them to stand comfortably, turn around, lie down and have adequate ventilation. Your pet may have to stay in the cage/carrier for a period of time so include bedding, blankets and any favourite toy to reduce stress levels.
-  **Float:** For safe transportation of horses and to ensure they can't escape. Keep in mind the horses may need to stay in the float for a period of time.
-  **Flammable gear:** On high risk fire days, remove flammable gear, such as rugs, harnesses, halters and fly veils, and anything that contains metal. Most rugs are a polyester/cotton blend, if they catch fire they'll melt onto the animal's skin.

## Safe Shelter Places





If you need to evacuate, you may also need to move your large animals, such as livestock and horses, to a safe place. And if you have pets, you must take them with you or arrange for a safe place. They're part of your family and it's not okay to leave them behind. If it's not safe for you to stay, it's not safe for them or those who may try and rescue them. Pets aren't usually permitted in public emergency shelters so you need to plan for a Safe House or animal shelter that you and your pets (or just your pets) can go to.

-  **Safe Paddock:** Plan with a family member, friend or paddock owner (who doesn't live with you) to care for your livestock or horses if you can't.  
Not all animals may be able to be evacuated. You can improve their chance of survival by having a safer area to move them to in an emergency event.
-  **Safe House:** If you're not able to care for your pets, plan for a family member or friend – who has cared for your pets in the past – to do so.
-  **Safe Shelter:** Make a list of pet friendly shelters e.g. kennels, catteries, motels that allow pets, local vet centres. Your local council may be able to help you with this. Keep a list of their contact details and a copy in each of your Home and Getaway Kits.


At most places you'll need to provide veterinary records before they'll accept pets. Some shelters may waive their "no pet" policy if your pet is housed in a sturdy cage/carrier.

Make a reservation as soon as you think you might have to evacuate your home.

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-  **Carer details:** Put the full name, address and phone number of your carer in a waterproof container inside your Emergency Survival Kit. Your household should also know this information and have it saved as well.
-  **Emergency Survival Kit locations:** Let your carer – and a neighbour – know the location of your Home and Getaway Kits. In the event you're not home when a disaster strikes, they can feed and attend to your animals in the interim.
-  **House access:** Let your carer – and a neighbour – know where the spare house key is located. Or give them their own key in the event your hiding place is destroyed in an emergency.
-  **Post emergency communications:** Have a plan to communicate with your carer after the emergency event.

## Financial support and advice

-  Check, where necessary, that your insurance records are up to date. Store a copy of the documentation in your Emergency Survival Kit.

For more information about rural and livestock financial support in the event of an emergency, please visit The Ministry for Social Development or Inland Revenue Department.

## Have a practise run

Practise getting your family and animals to the designated safe place – including grabbing your Emergency Survival Kits on the way.

For horses, it's also an opportunity to get them use to entering into and travelling calmly in their float.

See how quickly you can evacuate and practice it from time to time to see if you can make improvements. Also try it in the dark. Particularly helpful if the emergency event happens at night and there's a power cut.

