



Companion animals and bushfires

Have a bushfire plan

It's important to have a plan of action for how you will keep your pets and hobby farm animals safe during a bushfire. Starting to develop your bushfire plan could be as simple as having a conversation with your household, making sure that everyone knows:

- what your triggers are for evacuation (high fire risk days, emergency alerts)
- evacuation routes, planning for fire travelling in several possible directions
- how you will transport different animals (ensuring you know where cages, leads are stored)
- where animals can stay during a fire (family, friends, boarding facility, pet-friendly accommodation)
- how you will protect animals if they are unable to be evacuated, such as moving animals to areas with no vegetation
- how you will maintain containment (fencing) and provision of food and water for your animals after the fire has passed.

Make an emergency kit

On high fire risk days, assemble essentials to take with you in case you must evacuate, including:

- at least three days of feed
- leads, harnesses/muzzles/halters
- animal carriers
- vaccination records
- any medications.

Prepare your property

- Ensure your animals always have a water supply that will last them at least five days, even if you expect to return home that evening.
- Ensure your animal trailers are roadworthy and easily accessible at all times.

Identification

Ensure pets are microchipped, and that microchip details are updated, to help facilitate their return in case they become lost. Include proof of ownership/identification records in your emergency kit.

Remember: Dogs and cats may hide or flee during fire, so should be brought inside so they can be easily found in case of evacuation.



Pause for your PAWE

Bushfires are stressful and making last minute decisions can be deadly. By writing down a **Plan for Animal Welfare in Emergencies (PAWE)** and including it in your bushfire survival plan, you can help ensure you make the best possible decisions to protect the safety of your animals.

Ensure all members of your household/workplace are familiar with your bushfire plan at the start of each bushfire season.

Survival plan for your animals' welfare in an emergency

1. Evacuating animals

Which animals will we evacuate?

How will we know when it's time for us to evacuate the animals? (high risk days, smell/see smoke, emergency alerts)

How will we transport all of the animals being evacuated?

Where can we take the animals? (e.g. agistment or boarding options)

What are the possible evacuation routes? (consider the fire moving in different directions)

2. Safer areas for animals

Which animals can't be evacuated?

How will we keep them safe on our property during the fire?

What's our plan for after the fire?

How will we keep animals contained if fencing is destroyed, and provide food and water (in the case of burnt paddocks, destroyed sheds, mains water unavailable, contaminated dams)

Emergency contacts

Regular vet _____

24hr emergency vet clinic _____

Important disclaimer

The Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and the State of Western Australia accept no liability whatsoever by reason of negligence or otherwise arising from the use or release of this information or any part of it.

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