

Keep Livestock Alive – Don't Horse Around!

If a natural disaster, widespread outbreak of disease (such as pandemic influenza), or act of terrorism occurred, would you be prepared? Many questions come to mind when planning for disasters, such as “What do I pack?” and “Where do I go?” (The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the American Red Cross are excellent resources to help with family disaster planning.) However, few people include the protection and care of pets in their disaster preparedness plans. Please take the following steps to protect pets and other animals during an emergency.

Disaster Preparedness Planning

- 1. Create a Disaster Preparedness Plan** for your family – including your livestock and horses.
- 2. Assemble an animal health push pack** that includes the following items:
 - Identification tags including owner contact information and current photos
 - Current medical and vaccination records (including Coggins' test results for horses)
 - Extra bottles of daily medications or copies of prescriptions with current expiration dates
 - First aid kit
 - Non-perishable food, water, manual can opener and dishes/containers
 - Plastic bags, paper towels, newspaper, disinfectant
 - Blankets
 - Halters, lead shanks, saddles (write contact info on halters)
 - Flashlights and batteries and/or kerosene lanterns
 - Extra fuel for vehicles (such as trailers) and generators
 - Fire extinguisher
 - Sand bags and plastic sheeting
 - Wire and rope
 - Hand tools and shovel
- 3. Map out at least 2 evacuation routes.**
- 4. Make a list of places that will shelter your animals.** Some counties set up emergency shelters at county fairgrounds or convention centers. Include the following information on your list: name of place, address, directions and phone number. Call ahead to make reservations.
- 5. Plan to shelter-in-place if evacuation is not possible.** This means providing a safe shelter and enough food and water for your animals on your property.
- 6. Practice your disaster plans** with your animals on a regular basis, and update expired food and supplies. Consider purchasing a back-up generator because electricity may not be available. Practice your plan at least once per year—preferably every 6 months.

References:

American Red Cross. (2006). *Pets and Disaster: Be Prepared*.
The Humane Society of the United States. (2001). *Disaster Preparedness for Pets*.
The Humane Society of the United States. (2001). *Disaster Preparedness for Horses*.
The Humane Society of the United States. (2001). *Disaster Preparedness for Livestock*.

Think Health
Act Now!

CITY OF
MILWAUKEE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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