



Horses and floods

Have a flood plan

In a flood, you need somewhere safe to shelter. Your animals need somewhere safe as well. Planning ahead for your own safety and the safety of animals in your care is essential. Starting to develop your flood plan could be as simple as having a conversation with your household about:

- is your horse paddock or stables flood prone?
- are you likely to need to evacuate your horses? If so, where will they go? How will they get there?
- who else needs to know your plan? Think about family, neighbours and others who may be able to help.

Be prepared

- ✓ Include horses in your household/property emergency plan
- ✓ Create an emergency kit which can be easily relocated with your animals if necessary, and includes copies of stock information and identification, proof of ownership, and photographs of valuable animals
- ✓ Plan evacuation routes – consider several alternate routes to ensure rapid evacuation
- ✓ Ensure equipment and vehicles are in proper working condition

- ✓ If your property is in danger of flooding, move horses to the highest area of the property
- ✓ Consider opening internal property gates to allow horses to move between paddocks to dry ground
- ✓ Provide enough supplementary feed (such as hay) and water to last at least five days. Put it in an area least likely to flood.
- ✓ **Do not** cut fences along roadsides or leave external property gates open
- ✓ Do not leave shelter to check animals until safe to do so.

Identification

All livestock, including horses, should be appropriately identified and registered.

Visit agric.wa.gov.au/livestock-movement-identification/livestock-ownership-identification-and-movement-western-australia

Flood warnings

Flood warnings are issued by the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM).

Visit emergency.wa.gov.au



Pause for your PAWE – floods

Floods are stressful and making last minute decisions can be deadly. Writing down a **Plan for Animal Welfare in Emergencies (PAWE)** and including it in your flood survival plan can help ensure you make the best possible decisions to protect your animals. Ensure all members of your household are familiar with your flood plan.

Use the questions below as prompts to help you write down your plan. Write separate plans for different animal types as their needs will differ.

Survival plan for your animals' welfare in an emergency

1. Animals' names or types of livestock

2. Preparing your property

Where will we shelter during a flood?

What are the safest areas for animals on our property?

Will we move any animals? If so, where will we move them to? When and how?

What food, medications and other essentials supplies do we need to have on-hand before a flood?

What do we need in our flood emergency kit?

Are animal identifications up-to-date?

Are there any situations that need particular consideration? (e.g. freshly-shorn sheep, young stock)

3. What's our plan for after the flood?

How will animals be contained if fences and shelters are destroyed?

How will we access feed?

How will we monitor for and treat symptoms of pest and disease?

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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