



Horses and heatwaves

Have a heatwave plan

Heatwaves can place great stress on animals, including horses. They may need special care and attention during a heatwave. Access to clean, cool, fresh water and shade is essential. Plan ahead for the safety of your animals by having a discussion with your household about:

- Do your horses have adequate shade?
- Is their water regularly refilled?
- How will you protect your horses from flies during the heat?
- When will you ride or exercise your horses to avoid over exertion in the heat?
- Who else needs to know your plan? Think about family, neighbours and others who may be able to help.

Be prepared

- ✓ When hot weather is forecast, make sure your animals will be well cared for
- ✓ Cool, clean drinking water is essential
- ✓ Make sure horses have access to shade
- ✓ Consider changing routines to exercise horses in the early morning when it is cooler
- ✓ Be particularly careful with manure management to reduce fly numbers.

Remember

- Horses are more sensitive to high temperatures than they are to low temperatures. Their comfort zone is between 5°C and 25°C.
- Some animals will not drink warm water. Ensure water troughs are regularly checked and refilled.

Heatwave warnings

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

Visit [emergency.wa.gov.au](https://www.emergency.wa.gov.au)



Pause for your PAWE – heatwaves

Heatwaves can be deadly for animals. Writing down a **Plan for Animal Welfare in Emergencies (PAWE)** detailing how you will care for your animals during a heatwave. Ensure all members of your household or workplace are familiar with your 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. What extra precautions will we take to help our animals cope with heat?

3. How can we plan the timing of husbandry tasks (e.g. drenching, shearing, crutching) to limit animal movement and yarding on hot days?

4. Can we maintain flexibility in tasks to take into account sudden heatwaves (such as arrange our schedule to exercise horses/dogs in the cool of the morning)?

5. Which areas of the property provide the coolest places for our animals, and which animals need priority for these cooler areas?

6. What checks will we do to ensure our animals' welfare during a heatwave?

8. What water infrastructure do we need to install/replace/improve to limit the distance to fresh water?

9. Could we make longterm changes to improve access to shade (e.g. build shelters, planting trees and shelterbelts)?

Emergency contacts

Regular vet _____

24hr emergency vet clinic

Important disclaimer

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