



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).

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