



## Livestock and heatwaves

Heatwaves can place great stress on animals, including livestock. They may need special care and attention during a heatwave. Access to clean, cool, fresh water and shade is essential. Planning ahead is the best approach to ensure the safety of your animals.

- Which areas of your property provide the best option for livestock during a heatwave? Think about access to shade and water.
- What infrastructure is necessary to ensure animals have access to shade and shelter?
- Think about timing of husbandry tasks (e.g. drenching, shearing, crutching) to limit animal movement and yarding on the hottest days.
- Who else needs to know your plan? Think about family, neighbours, staff 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 livestock have access to adequate shade
- ✓ A small amount of shade may be worse than no shade at all for a large flock, as the flock will crowd into the shade and the crowding will actually increase the heat individuals are suffering.

### Remember

- Water in black pipes that run over the surface of the ground can get very hot.
- Concrete troughs will keep water cooler than metal or black plastic ones.
- Some animals will not drink warm water. Ensure water troughs are regularly checked, cleaned and refilled.

### Heatwave warnings

Heatwave 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

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### 2. What extra precautions will we take to help our animals cope with heat?

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

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### 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)?

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

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

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

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

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## Emergency contacts

Regular vet \_\_\_\_\_

24hr emergency vet clinic  
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### Important disclaimer

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