

## BUSHFIRE SAFETY AND PETS



After human safety, the welfare of your animals should be your most important consideration in the event of a natural disaster. Just as we need to prepare our family and property in times of emergencies and natural disasters we also need to prepare our animals.

Make sure you plan for all your family and your pets to keep them safe. During an emergency your pets will need water, shade and a safe place to stay. If you have livestock that can be moved out of the area allow yourself plenty of time to relocate them.

Never turn animals out on to the road to run free. This is dangerous for fire trucks and vehicles, and you may be legally responsible if they cause a crash. Animals will panic during a bushfire which may result in injuries if they are not secured.

**If you have livestock that can be moved out of the area, allow yourself plenty of time to relocate them.**

**If possible, move larger animals to paddocks with little vegetation. At the start of the bushfire season consider slashing a paddock to create a safer area.**

As owners or carers of animals you have a **duty of care** to provide appropriate food, water, shelter and treatment for injury or disease for your animals. Having a duty of care for an animal that you are in charge of means you are legally obliged to care for it by providing for its needs in a reasonable way.

**Make sure you plan for all your family this summer, including your pets to keep them safe.**

**During a bushfire your pets will need water, shade and a safe place to stay.**



### DID YOU KNOW?

Pets and livestock are not allowed at public relocation centres, so you need to consider what you will do with them in your bushfire survival plan.

Once you have left your property it is likely to be several days before emergency services give the all clear and you will be allowed to return home. This can be very upsetting, however it is vitally important that you obey road closures and wait for the all clear.

Ignoring these instructions could put your life and the lives of emergency services personnel at risk as there may be hazards in the area such as falling trees and branches, downed power lines and damaged or blocked roads.





## Pet and Animal Plan

When developing your pet emergency plan it is important to consider the following:

- Animals will require a constant source of water and food, shade and safe place shelter
- If you need to move your pets to a safer place, think about where and how you will relocate them
- Animals are not allowed in relocation centres, except guide dogs



## Pet Emergency Kit

As a pet owner the best thing you can do is to be prepared. This allows you to make informed decisions to protect your pets during emergencies or natural disasters. Having a pet emergency kit prepares your pets for relocation at short notice. Like your household emergency kit, it is important to keep your kit in a handy place and make sure everyone knows where it is.

- Registration or licence papers
- Pet medications, medical and vaccination records, and veterinarian contact details
- Sufficient food and water for each animal for up to two weeks period, bring a canopener for tinned food
- Plastic bowls for food and water
- A familiar pet blanket or bedding, toys and grooming equipment
- A secure pet carrier cover, cage, leash and or harness to transport and keep animals safe
- If you are a bird owner place special food and water dispensers in bird cages and have a cover for the cage
- Consider your animal's sanitation requirements and include rubbish bags, kitty litter and dog litter disposal bags
- Include recent photos of your pet for identification
- Include gloves, disinfectant and paper towels for your own hygiene.



## Prepare Checklist

- Prepare a pet emergency kit
- Check with your local council regarding animal welfare plans during emergencies
- Update your animals' microchip details
- Ensure vaccinations are all up to date
- Ensure your pets' council registrations are current
- Ensure your pets have adequate identification
- Have current photos of your domestic animals to assist in easily identifying you as the legal owner
- Include the following phone numbers in your emergency plan:
  - Your veterinarian
  - RSPCA WA or other local animal welfare agencies
  - Help number for injured and trapped wildlife, ranger and animal rescue services.

### Resources:

- **DFES Pet Emergency Kits**  
<http://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/safetyinformation/animalwelfare/Pages/petemergen cykitandplan.aspx>
- **Prepare. Act. Survive**  
<http://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/safetyinformation/fire/bushfire/Pages/default.aspx>

For more information please contact  
**DFES Community Engagement on**  
**9395 9816 or**  
**communitysafetyresources@dfes.wa.gov.au**