



Protect your Animals in an Emergency

Livestock and Horses

Same as you do with your family's Emergency Survival Kit, think first about the basics for your livestock and horses – food, water and warmth.

Think about having two Emergency Survival Kits

Home Kit – contains everything you may need to stay at home for up to three days.

Getaway Kit – more portable and lightweight for when you need to leave quickly.

Make sure your kits are easy to grab in a hurry, and that everyone in the house knows where they are, including a neighbour.

Check your kits from time to time for expiry dates to ensure supplies stay fresh – particularly food, water and medicine items. Replace water every six months for freshness.

If where you are isn't safe for you, it isn't safe for your animals.

Prepare for your Livestock and Horses – checklist

Emergency Survival Items

- Food:** Store at least five days of feed somewhere dry e.g. silage, hay, pellets.
- Water:** Store at least five days of water, additional to your family needs. Animals may drink more water than usual when stressed.
- Medicines:** Store any extra medical supplies and special dietary needs or supplements in a waterproof container.
- Veterinary/medical records:** Store copies of any medical and vaccination records in a waterproof container. Include your vet's name and phone number – in case you have to move your livestock to another property, or board your horses or place them in foster care.
- First Aid Kit:** In addition to your family needs, make up a first aid kit for your animals. And talk to your vet about any specific first aid requirements, like fly spray, antibiotic ointment and saline solution (separate to your family's kit).

Identification

- ID tag:** Add an ID tag to your horse's halter, lead and cover that clearly shows their name, your name, phone number and (if room) your address. Include a backup in their Emergency Survival Kit.
- Registered and microchipped:** Make sure your animal ID is up to date. Microchip and register horses on a licensed registry. For livestock, ensure your National Animal Identification and Tracing (NAIT) ear tags and Property Identification Code (PIC) details are up to date. Store a copy of all documentation in your Emergency Survival Kit.



See full First Aid Kit
checklist [here](#).



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In the 2011 Canterbury Earthquake 80 percent of microchipped animals were reunited with their owners versus 20 percent for non-chipped animals.

- Photograph:** Store a current photograph of your horses and individual livestock (if appropriate) in a waterproof container, including notes on any distinguishing features, name, sex, age, colour and breed. Also include a photograph of you and your horses together to help prove ownership.
- Save information online:** For easy access from wherever you are, save all your important information – microchip, photographs, medical, veterinary and contact details – online e.g. Dropbox, mobile phone or web/gmail.

Equipment

- Lead/halter:** And any other gear that would help you move your horses in an emergency evacuation.
- Float:** For safe transportation of horses and to ensure they can't escape. Keep in mind the horses may need to stay in the float for a period of time.
- Flammable gear:** On high risk fire days, remove flammable gear, such as rugs, harnesses, halters and fly veils, and anything that contains metal. Most rugs are a polyester/cotton blend, if they catch fire they'll melt onto the animal's skin.

Safe Shelter Places

If you need to evacuate, you may also need to move your livestock and horses to a safe place.

- Safe Paddock:** Plan with a family member, friend or paddock owner (who doesn't live with you) to care for your livestock or horses if you can't.
Not all animals may be able to be evacuated. You can improve their chance of survival by having a safer area to move them to in an emergency event.
- Animal carer details:** Put the full name, address and phone number of the person caring for your animals in a waterproof container inside your Emergency Survival Kit. Your household should also know this information and have it saved as well.
- Emergency Survival Kit locations:** Let the person caring for your animals – and a neighbour – know the location of your Home and Getaway Kits. In the event you're not home when a disaster strikes, they can feed and attend to your animals in the interim.
- House access:** Let the person caring for your animals – and a neighbour – know where the spare house key is located. Or give them their own key in the event your hiding place is destroyed in an emergency.
- Post emergency communications:** Have a plan to communicate with the person caring for your animals after the emergency event.

Financial support and advice

- Check, where necessary, that your insurance records are up to date. Store a copy of the documentation in your Emergency Survival Kit.
For more information about rural and livestock financial support in the event of an emergency, please contact The Ministry for Social Development or your local Rural Support Trust.

Have a practise run

Practise getting your family and animals to the designated safe place – including grabbing your Emergency Survival Kits on the way.

It's also an opportunity to get them used to entering into and travelling calmly in a truck or float. Practise leading and loading them into a trailer or float. Have equipment close at hand that may be needed such as halters and lead ropes. Practise hitching your trailer and backing it into the loading area. Check brakes and air in tyres on a regular basis.

See how quickly you can evacuate and practise it from time to time to see if you can make improvements. Also try it in the dark. Particularly helpful if the emergency event happens at night and there's a power cut.

