

Useful Contact Information

Somerset Local Authorities Civil Contingencies Unit
0300 123 2224 email: civilcontingencies@somerset.gov.uk

Environment Agency

Floodline 0345 988 1188 Incident Hotline 0800 80 70 60
For information about flooding visit www.gov.uk/prepare-for-a-flood

RSPCA

24 hour national advice line 0300 1234 999
www.rspca.org.uk

Devon and Somerset Trading Standards (Farmed Animal Health and Welfare) Contact through the Citizens Advice Consumer Service 03454 040506 or 0208 1850710
Out of hours (emergencies only) 01392 499499
email: tsadvice@devon.gov.uk
www.devonsomersettradingstandards.gov.uk

Animal and Plant Health Agency

national contact number 03000 200 301

The following agencies and organisations support and recommend this information to you.



CHECKLIST

Before it Happens –

- Check to see if your area is at risk from flooding or other emergency
- Prepare your evacuation plans
- Make sure your animal is identifiable

Add any contact numbers or addresses relevant to your plans e.g. your number of your vet surgery, contact details of your choice of boarding facilities

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KEEP THIS LEAFLET IN A SAFE PLACE. KEEP YOUR PLANS UPDATED.

This suite of leaflets is supported by:

Animal Emergency Planning. The Environment Agency. Somerset Local Authorities Civil Contingencies Partnership. The Royal Bath & West of England Society. RSPCA. The British Horse Society. World Horse Welfare. Horse World. APHA (Animal & Plant Health Agency), Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service. Countess Mountbatten's Legion of Frontiersmen and Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RABI)

Devon and Somerset Trading Standards. Farming Community Network. NFU. National Animal Welfare Trust. Road Haulage Association Limited. Avon and Somerset Constabulary

This document is also available on request in Braille, large print, tape or disc and can be translated into different languages.



HOW TO PROTECT YOUR HORSE, PONY or DONKEY DURING A DISASTER



HOW TO PROTECT HORSES, PONIES AND DONKEYS IN A DISASTER

These basic guidelines are for preparation for an emergency such as floods, fire, heat wave, or human health pandemic. In the event of a disaster or emergency, local authority personnel and officials will try and advise on the situation with regard to horses, ponies and donkeys. The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) are responsible for notifiable disease outbreaks.

Local Authorities take contingency planning seriously and need animal owners to do the same in order to help save lives and aid swift evacuation of entire communities.

THE NUMBER ONE WAY YOU CAN PROTECT YOUR ANIMAL IS BY PLANNING AHEAD.

MAKE PLANS NOW

Do not wait until it is too late. By taking the time now to prepare you will save valuable time when a disaster/evacuation is imminent. Research has shown that animal needs are the same as for humans during or post disaster i.e. food, water, shelter and first aid.

Familiarize yourself with each type of emergency that could affect your area – flood, fire, industrial accident, terrorism? Some of these may seem extreme but individual premises may be more liable to problems than others. Experience has shown that the more prepared owners are for a crisis, the higher the likelihood of survival for both themselves and their animals. Consider your future response in the event of:

- Sudden onset emergencies – flash floods, fire or freak snow storm
- Slower onset emergencies – rising flood levels, drought or pandemic

Remember that you may not be at the stables/field when an emergency is announced – confide in neighbours or trusted friends who may be in a position to help.

The Animals Welfare Act 2006 now puts responsibility of animal welfare and the avoidance of preventable suffering firmly on the shoulders of all animal keepers. Working together in communities may well help prevent the start or spread of diseases brought about by a crisis - lives are saved by alliances within a community.

Consider other equine owners in the vicinity – there may be young owners without access to transport. Please make sure these people are not left to cope on their own. Timely collaboration will help ensure your community can help each other when an emergency is imminent and when dealing with large animals, extra pairs of hands will always be beneficial. Local riding and pony clubs, riding centres and livery yards can benefit from working together. Previous contact will also help to allay fears with regard to contagious disease.

Remember any workforce and casual labour may not be in a position to get into work.

POINTS TO CONSIDER WHEN MAKING PLANS:

1. IDENTIFICATION and PROOF OF OWNERSHIP

Keep your animal's passport with him/her at all times, sensibly in waterproof container.

Send copies of photographs and identification documents to a trusted friend or family member who lives in another area. This ensures you can retrieve them safely if your own copies are lost in a disaster.

2. EVACUATION

If in a position to do so, it is always advisable to evacuate your equine away from danger. This may be to previously identified higher land out of the immediate area of danger or even further afield.

In the event of evacuation, owners should be prepared to move their animals as soon as it is possible to do so safely. Better to evacuate too soon than leave it too late.

The following should be kept together in readiness of an emergency evacuation

- Passport
- Headcollars/halters – one for each animal owned
- Emergency contact list
- First aid kit – keep a record of any medication your animal may be on, also a record of the contact details of your vet
- Any instructions relevant to your particular animal which will help with his/her care.
- Electric fencing to include poles, tape, fences/batteries – this will allow your animals to be restrained away from danger
- Feed, fodder and clean water
- Any further equipment that may be needed
- Make the decision to evacuate whilst transport can still get to you
- On Checklist
- Before it Happens add arrow 'Keep your Ordnance Survey (OS) reference and Post Code by the phone'

3. TRANSPORT:

Identify how your animal is best evacuated. Ensure you have contingency plans for each of your animals.

If you do not have access to your own transport, identify hauliers or acquaintances in your area that will be in a position to help in an emergency.

Keep their contact details with your evacuation/emergency kit.

4. DESTINATION FACILITIES:

Locate and prearrange an evacuation site for your family and animals outside your immediate home area. Consider setting up a network of suitable addresses ahead of time

Local authorities may have already identified appropriate places to take your equine during a crisis.

Not all animals are familiar with transport so practise loading/unloading, the last thing you need is a nervous animal refusing to load.

OTHER POINTS TO CONSIDER: FEED AND WATER STORES

Pasture and water courses will be contaminated after flooding.

Water:

Consider storing as much water as possible above flood level, enough at least to see your livestock through until clean tanker water can be delivered.

Feed:

Store enough feed and fodder above flood level, even a few days rations may often be enough to see your animals through until deliveries can be made.

PREVENTATIVE HEALTH STRATEGIES:

- In areas prone to flooding and drought, there is an increased incidence of certain groups of disease which include tetanus – ensure your animals' vaccinations are up to date.
- Parasite burdens of both individual animals and pasture will usually increase after flooding.
- Conditions related to hoof horn softening – puncture wounds, pus in the foot and canker all have a higher incidence in flooded conditions
- Wounds to the lower limbs are likely if an animal has been caught in flooded conditions – wounds from wire fencing or debris in flood water
- The youngest, oldest and pregnant animals will be most prone to stress and illness and should be monitored closely.

Be prepared and discuss preventative strategies and vaccinations with your own veterinary surgeon, he/she will also be able to advise you on an appropriate first aid kit.

Please note: Tying up or restraining any animal during floods will almost certainly sign an animal's death warrant. Animals are amazingly resilient and will save themselves if given the opportunity to do so.

PROTECT YOUR OWN HEALTH

SEVERAL ANIMAL DISEASES CAN INFECT HUMANS, BE AWARE THAT THE PREVALENCE OF THESE ZOOSES OFTEN INCREASES DURING A CRISIS. Puncture wounds should not be neglected as can result in tetanus, cuts and skin injuries are more likely to lead to serious infection. Standing water can promote growth of infectious organisms and increase the spread of insect parasites.

FINALLY, REMEMBER TO KEEP YOUR PLANS UPDATED.

Copyright to Tess Sprayson BVSc MSc MRCVS
Feedback is welcomed. Please
email tess@animal-emergency-planning.co.uk