

SECTION 1: ANIMALS

1.1 *Preparing Your Small Pets for Emergencies*

If you are like millions of small pet owners nationwide, your pet is an important member of your household. The likelihood that you and your pets will survive an emergency such as a fire, flood, tornado or terrorist attack depends largely on emergency planning done today. Some of the things you can do to prepare for the unexpected, such as assembling a pet emergency supply kit and developing a pet care buddy system, are the same for any emergency. Whether you decide to stay put in an emergency or evacuate to a safer location, you will need to make plans in advance for your small pets. Keep in mind that what is best for you is typically what is best for your small pets.

It is best to take your small pets with you when you evacuate. However, if you are going to a public shelter, it is important to understand that pets are not allowed inside shelters. Only service animals are allowed to accompany their owners in to a shelter. In Riverside County, when a shelter is opened for evacuees, an animal shelter will be opened to accommodate any small pets. The animal shelter will be set up as close as possible to the shelter where evacuees are located so they can visit with their small pets. For larger pets / animals (such as horse, llamas) a larger animal shelter will be opened if necessary.

Create a back-up plan in case you cannot care for your small pets yourself. Develop a buddy system with neighbors, friends and relatives to make sure that someone is available to evacuate or care for your small pets if you are unable to do so. Be prepared to improvise and use what you have on hand to make it on your own for at least five days, maybe longer.

This information was developed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in consultation with: American Kennel Club, The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), American Veterinary Medical Association and The Humane Society of the U.S.

Preparing for the unexpected makes sense. Get Ready Now.

1.1.1 **Pet Emergency Supply Kit Checklist**

Just as you do with your family's emergency supply kit, think first about the basics for survival, particularly food and water. Consider two kits. In one, put everything you and your pets will need to stay where you are. The other should be a lightweight, smaller version you can take with you if you and your pets have to get away. Plus, be sure to review your kits regularly to ensure that their contents, especially foods and medicines, are fresh.

- Food: Keep at least five days of food in an airtight, waterproof container
- Water: Store at least five days of water specifically for your small pets in addition to water you need for yourself and your family
- Medicines and medical records: Keep an extra supply of medicines your small pets take on a regular basis in a waterproof container
- First aid kit: Talk to your veterinarian about what is most appropriate for your pets' emergency medical needs (Most kits should include cotton bandage rolls, bandage tape, scissors, antibiotic ointment, flea and tick prevention, latex gloves, isopropyl alcohol, saline solution and a pet first aid reference book)
- Collar with ID tag, harness or leash: Each pet should wear a collar with its rabies tag and identification at all times. Include a backup leash, collar and ID tag in your pets'

emergency supply kit; place copies of your pets' registration information, adoption papers, vaccination documents and medical records in a clean plastic bag or waterproof container and add them to your kit; consider talking with your veterinarian about permanent identification such as micro chipping and enrolling your pet in a recovery database

- Crate or other pet carrier: The carrier should be large enough for your small pets to stand, turn around and lie down
- Sanitation: Include pet litter and litter box if appropriate, newspapers, paper towels, plastic trash bags and household bleach to provide for your pets' sanitation needs.
- A picture of you and your small pet together: If you become separated from your small pet during an emergency, a picture of you together will help you document ownership and allow others to assist you in identifying your pet; include detailed information about species, breed, age, sex, color and distinguishing characteristics
- Familiar items: Put favorite toys, treats or bedding in your kit; familiar items can help reduce stress for your pets

1.1.2 Plan What You Will Do in an Emergency

Be prepared to assess the situation. Use whatever you have on hand to take care of yourself and ensure your pets' safety during an emergency. Depending on your circumstances and the nature of the emergency, the most important decision is whether you stay or evacuate. You should understand and have plan for both possibilities. Use common sense and the information you are learning here to determine if there is immediate danger.

In any emergency, local authorities may or may not immediately be able to provide information on what is happening and what you should do. However, watch TV, listen to the radio or check the Internet for instructions. If you're specifically told to evacuate, shelter-in-place or seek medical treatment, do so immediately.

Create a plan to evacuate. Plan how you will assemble your pets and anticipate where you will go. Secure appropriate lodging in advance depending on the number and type of animals in your care. Consider family or friends willing to take in you and your pets in an emergency. Other options may include: a hotel or motel that takes pets, a boarding facility, such as a kennel or veterinary hospital that is near an evacuation facility or your family's meeting place. Find out before an emergency happens if any of these facilities in your area might be viable options for you and your pets.

Gather contact information for emergency animal treatment. Make a list of contact information and addresses of area animal control agencies including the Humane Society or SPCA, and emergency veterinary hospitals. Keep one copy of these phone numbers with you and one in your pets' emergency supply kit. Obtain "Pets Inside" stickers and place them on your doors or windows, including information on the number and types of pets in your home to alert firefighters and rescue workers. Consider putting a phone number on the sticker where you could be reached in an emergency. And, if time permits, remember to write the words "Evacuated with Pets" across the stickers should you flee with your pets.

1.1.3 Stay Informed - Know About Types of Emergencies

Some of the things you can do to prepare for the unexpected, such as assembling an emergency supply kit for yourself, your family and your pets, are the same regardless of the type of emergency. However, it's important to stay informed about what might happen and know what types of emergencies are likely to affect your region as well as emergency plans

that have been established by your state and local government. For more information about how to prepare, visit **www.ready.gov** or call 1-800-BE-READY.

Be prepared to adapt this information to your personal circumstances and make every effort to follow instructions received from authorities on the scene. With these simple preparations, you can be ready for the unexpected. Those who take the time to prepare themselves and their pets will likely encounter less difficulty, stress and worry. Take the time now to get yourself and your pets ready.

Preparing for Your Pets Makes Sense. Get Ready Now! To download the pet brochure, visit <http://www.ready.gov/america/downloads/pets.pdf> .

1.2 ***Preparing Equine and Large Animals for an Emergency***

You should be aware that actions you take before, during and after a natural or man made disaster could save your large animals. When an emergency or natural disaster occurs, it is always in the best interest of the large animal veterinarian and the large animal owner to be prepared. Catastrophic events can adversely affect the health and well-being of the large animals. Preparation must be as thorough as possible knowing that circumstances will highlight the weaknesses rather than the strengths of those involved.

Remember, there may not be sufficient time to evacuate your large animals in a fast occurring event. Prepare now to better assist you and your large animals. Consider having your large animals marked, micro-chipped and registered so you can be reunited after a disaster occurs. Have a current photograph available of your animal.

Shelter-in-place may be the safest action to take in a rapidly occurring event. If emergency vehicles are responding to a fire, it is important to leave the main access road of Clinton Keith Road open for emergency responders to use.

Important steps to consider in establishing a disaster and emergency response plan include:

- Educating large animal owners
- Establishing a local response system
- Address transportation issues
- Preparing for actual hands-on emergency rescue situations

1.2.1 **Resources for Large Animal Owners**

Preparation is a key part of making sure your large animals are safe and taken care of in a crisis situation. One must understand who the other resources are and what their plan is in order for a coordinated response to result. The American Association for Equine Practitioners (AAEP) has collected best practices to make sure you, the large animal owner, have vital information available to you before a disaster strikes. For additional information from AAEP, visit <http://www.aaep.org/>.

1.2.2 **Plan Ahead Before a Disaster Occurs**

- Familiarize yourself with the types of disasters that can occur in your area and develop a plan of action to deal with each type
 - Some disasters to consider are wildland fires, earthquakes, floods, tornadoes, severe winter weather, nuclear power plant accidents with release of radioactivity in to the environment and hazardous material spills
- Survey your property to find the best location to keep your animals in each type of disaster
 - Identify a corral or large fenced in field
 - Check for alternate water sources in case power is unavailable and pumps and automatic watering systems are not working after a disaster
- Permanently identify each large animal by tattoo, microchip, brand, tag, photograph (4 views-front, rear, left and right side)
- Record its age, sex, breed and color with your record of this identification
 - Keep this information with your important papers
 - If not identified at the time of the disaster in the above manner, paint or etch hooves, use neck bands or paint telephone number on side of animal
- Consult with your veterinarian for what immunizations are advisable

- Be sure your large animals' vaccination and medical records are written and up-to-date
- Have documentation of any medicines with dosing instructions, special feeding instructions and the name and phone number of the veterinarian who dispensed the drug
- Place a permanent tag with your name and phone number and the large animal's name on each halter
- Prepare for an emergency by:
 - Having enough fresh water and feed on hand for five days
 - Keeping trailers and vans maintained, keep vehicles full of gas and ready to move at all times (Acclimate your horse to trailers and vans)
 - Keeping ball lock key in the stock / horse trailer for easy access
- **PRACTICE YOUR PLAN**

1.2.2.1 Livestock Supply Checklist

- Food: Keep at least five days of feed
 - Consider keeping easily stored and transportable pellets on hand in a sealed container
- Water: Store at least five days of water for your livestock
 - Consider a storage tank and remember to check it regularly for water quality, changing as necessary
 - For those with wells, remember that during a power service interruption, the well will not work unless you have a generator (Contact Southern California Edison for details)
 - Consult with your veterinarian on use of water from swimming pools if you cannot store a sufficient supply (ensure no ash or debris is in the water)
- First Aid Kit: Talk with your veterinarian about what is most appropriate for your livestock needs
 - Include: cotton bandage rolls (sterile sanitary napkins as a substitute), vet wrap, scissors, betadine scrub, antibiotic ointment, latex gloves, isopropyl alcohol and saline solution
- If a County or City shelter is opened for evacuees, an animal shelter will be opened for small pets and if necessary, a shelter for large animals will also be opened*
 - This information will be available through Early Alert System (EAS) or local law enforcement officers
 - Keep in mind that large animals, who are otherwise docile, may become panicked in an emergency and can be hard to handle or even dangerous
 - Consult with your veterinarian about how to best manage panic stricken livestock
 - If you are not at home and an evacuation is called for, make arrangement ahead of time with another ranch or neighbor to relocate your animals
 - All animals should be microchipped to ensure they can be reunited with their owners after an emergency

1.2.3 At the Time of the Disaster

- **STAY CALM! FOLLOW YOUR PLAN!**
- Listen to the Emergency Alert System (EAS) or Early Warning Notifications System (EWNS) or local law enforcement officers for official information about where large animal shelters are located
- Know how to locate large animal care providers offering services during the disaster and any special instructions about actions you should take to protect your animals

- If you are instructed to evacuate your large animals from your property, you will be notified by Riverside County Animal Services and / or Riverside County Fire Department – Office of Emergency Services where large animal shelter is located
 - Riverside County Animal Services has pre-identified various locations to use as a large animal shelter but depending on the occurrence, the location will be identified at the time of the incident
- If you evacuate, take your large animals' immunizations and health records with you
- If you must leave your large animals unattended at home, leave them in the safest area possible that you previously selected such as high ground in a flood or in a corral or properly cleared area in a wildland fire
 - Leave enough water for the length of time you expect to be gone

NOTE: There may be times when taking your horses with you is impossible during an emergency. So you must consider different types of disasters and whether your horses would be better off in a corral or in a fenced field. Your local humane organization or Riverside County Animal Services office may provide you with information about your community's disaster response plans related to large animals. For additional information go to <http://www.humanesociety.org>

1.2.4 After the Disaster

- Be careful about leaving your large animals unattended outside after the disaster
 - Familiar scents and landmarks may be altered and the large animals could easily become confused and lost
 - It is best to place them in the safest area possible
 - Be sure fences are intact as some may be damaged by the disaster
 - Check fences and pastures for sharp objects that could injure large animals
- If any large animals are lost during the disaster check with Riverside County Animal Services, local veterinarians, humane societies, stables, race tracks, equestrian centers, surrounding ranches and other facilities that might house large animals
 - Listen to the Early Alert System (EAS) for information about groups that may have accepted lost animals
- If you find someone else's large animal after the disaster, isolate it from your animals until it is returned or can be examined by a veterinarian
- Use extreme caution when approaching and handling unknown or frightened large animals
- Consult with your veterinarian, the state veterinary medical association and the Department of Agriculture for information about any disease outbreaks that may have occurred as a result of the disaster
- Be prepared to identify and document ownership when claiming lost large animals

1.2.5 American Association for Equine Practitioners (AAEP)

The following AAEP links provide important information for large animal owners regarding disaster planning for large animals:

[Emergency Planning Workbook](http://www.thehorse.com/pdf/emergency/emergency.pdf) – <http://www.thehorse.com/pdf/emergency/emergency.pdf>

[Disaster Action Guidelines For Horse Owners](http://www.marylandhorseindustry.org/disaster.htm) - <http://www.marylandhorseindustry.org/disaster.htm>

[Emergency Preparedness: Important Tips for Horse Owners](http://www.aaep.org/health_articles_view.php?id=251) -

http://www.aaep.org/health_articles_view.php?id=251

[Disaster Planning for Horse Farms](http://www.aaep.org/health_articles_view.php?id=263) - http://www.aaep.org/health_articles_view.php?id=263

[Guidelines to Follow During Equine Emergencies](http://www.aaep.org/health_articles_view.php?id=50) -

http://www.aaep.org/health_articles_view.php?id=50

1.2.6 Register Your Large Animals

Remember to register your ranch, go to <http://www.srpet.info/animals.html> and click on the link "Register Your Large Animals". By registering your large animals, Riverside County emergency responders, Animal Services and Riverside Emergency Animal Rescue Services will have a better understanding of how many animals may need to be evacuated. Having this information before an emergency occurs provides emergency responders with important information on resources needed during an evacuation involving large animals.

http://www.disastersrus.org/MyDisasters/pets/DIST_DisasterHorseBrochure.pdf

1.3 *Riverside Emergency Animal Rescue System (R.E.A.R.S.)*

During the summer of 2003, Southern California fell siege to wildland fires. The Mountain Fire in southwest Riverside County was the defining incident which brought to the forefront the need for a formal and organized animal rescue program in Riverside County. There were many lessons learned. It was realized that government agencies do not have enough staff to handle a massive animal evacuation; the services of many volunteers were not able to be utilized because they had no formal training and there was no organizational structure; and animal rescue groups must be part of the emergency plan so they don't impede fire engines and emergency vehicles in the course of their work.

Following the aftermath of the Mountain Fire, an ad-hoc committee was formed with representatives from Riverside County Sheriff's Department, Riverside County Department of Animal Services, Riverside County Fire Department – Office of Emergency Services (OES) and the California Highway Patrol (CHP).

The committee realized the need for an initial training program and continuing training in order to provide for the safety of the volunteers. Initially a basic class was developed consisting of an overview on the areas of Incident Command System, Law Enforcement Issues, Animal Evacuation Procedures, Fire Line Safety and Animal Handling. After completing the Basic Class, volunteers were issued an R.E.A.R.S. identification card. Later in the year continuing training included Flood Training, Trailer Inspection and Maneuvering.

The original ad-hoc committee has evolved into the R.E.A.R.S. Council that oversees all aspects of the organization. R.E.A.R.S. is the system that has been developed to perform animal rescue, evacuation, sheltering and care and welfare of domestic and livestock animals within Riverside County during times of disaster or extraordinary emergencies.

1.3.1 R.E.A.R.S. Deployment

R.E.A.R.S. may be deployed anywhere within the County of Riverside for emergency activities. Local government can also request R.E.A.R.S. through the normal call out procedure. R.E.A.R.S. may also be deployed out of County by the Operational Area Coordinator, Riverside County Fire-OES.

1.3.2 R.E.A.R.S. Activation

R.E.A.R.S. is activated through a pager or a telephone call out procedure. Riverside County Animal Services will always be the lead for R.E.A.R.S., though it may be assisted on scene by another coordinating council agency such as Riverside County Sheriff, Riverside County Fire/OES, CALFIRE or California Highway Patrol (CHP).

Riverside County Animal Services Supervisor (*Animal Rescue Coordinator*) will be located at the Incident Command Post (ICP) while another representative establishes an Animal Staging Area (*Animal Staging Manager*) nearby. This staging area will be in close proximity to the Incident Command Post (ICP), though not close enough to interfere with Incident Command Post (ICP) or operational activities. The nature of the size and quantity of animal rescue equipment and vehicles necessitates an Animal Staging Area separate from the Incident Staging Area. This will be the area where equipment is checked in, configured in teams and then deployed to perform animal rescue activities.

Rescued animals are brought to Animal Staging for inventory, tagging and emergency first aid and then transported to boarding facilities by transport teams.

1.3.3 R.E.A.R.S. Training

All R.E.A.R.S. members have been trained in the following modules:

- Incident Command System (ICS)
- Wildland Fire Behavior
- Animal rescue techniques
- Emergency scene vehicle operations
- Water and flood operations
- Trailer techniques
- Trailer inspections and maneuvering

