

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 PET DURING A DISASTER



HOW TO PROTECT YOUR PET IN AN EMERGENCY

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 pets. 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 PET 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 the 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 disaster that could affect your area – floods, fire, industrial accident, terrorism? Some of these may seem extreme but individual premises may be more liable to problems than others. Thinking about it ahead of time will ensure preparedness.

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

These preparations may seem quite extreme but emergencies/accidents happen and experience shows that the more prepared owners are for an emergency, the higher the likelihood of survival for both themselves and their pets.

Consider the fact that you may not be at home when an evacuation is announced – confide in a neighbour or trusted friend 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.

Experience shows lives are saved by alliances within a community.

Consider other animal owners in the vicinity – there may be an elderly or disabled person whose pet is their lifeline but who will require help to prepare for and execute crisis plans.

Please make sure these people are not left to cope on their own, the involvement of another caring owner will put their mind at rest if forced to separate from their pet for their own safety. Timely collaboration will help ensure your community can help each other when an emergency is imminent.

POINTS TO CONSIDER WHEN MAKING PLANS:

1. IDENTIFICATION and PROOF OF OWNERSHIP

To ensure a safe reunion with your pet should you become separated, invest in permanent identification of your animal. The best way to ensure your pet can be identified is to have him/her micro-chipped. This can be undertaken at any veterinary surgery or by other qualified personnel. Keep a note of the microchip number in your evacuation kit and ensure your contact details are kept up to date.

Other forms of identification can include tattoos and collar tags.

Up to date photographs of your pet should be kept somewhere safe, as should any other proof of ownership and vaccination documents.

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

2. EVACUATION

It is always advisable to take your pet away from danger. In the event of evacuation, owners should be prepared to evacuate 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 placed in a waterproof carrier

- Collar and lead
- Cage or carrier – one for each animal and labelled with your contact information
- 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
- Familiar items to make your pet feel at home – toys, blankets, treats
- Up to a two weeks supply of food and medication
- Can opener if necessary
- Instructions for anyone who may have to take care of your pet
- Include a muzzle that fits your dog – do not be insulted by this, even the gentlest of animals can be difficult when disorientated or distressed

3. TRANSPORT:

- Identify how your animal is best evacuated. Always ensure the animal is well secured either in a carrier or on a well fitting collar and lead.
- If you do not have access to your own transport, identify taxi or pet welfare organisations in your area that will be in a position to help in an emergency. Keep their contact details with your evacuation/emergency kit.

4. BOARDING/HOUSING:

Locate and prearrange an evacuation site for your family and animals outside your immediate home area. Ideally this could be a pet friendly hotel/relative or friend.

Local authorities may have identified appropriate places to go with your pet during a crisis.

Do not automatically expect the destination to be fully equipped to accommodate your animals as you would wish – the more you can do to be prepared, the better the experience of evacuation for you and your family:

- Folding dog kennels are an excellent item to keep stored, they should be large enough to accommodate the dog comfortably with space to turn round and lie down, there should also be room for water and food bowls
- Cat/small animal carriers again should be adequately sized to allow the animal to turn around and lie down. A small litter tray should also be accommodated

Familiarize your animal with these carriers, practise loading your pets into them and give positive reinforcement in the form of a treat.

5. EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

There may be exceptional circumstances where some animals will be safer and happier left at home. It must be stressed that this should only be considered when provided with appropriate conditions and when taken under advisement from the authorities. Some pets that are easily confined such as birds, small mammals, reptiles and even some cats may be happier left at home in an upstairs room.

Whilst this can never really be recommended, each situation will have to be individually assessed. Food, water and litter facilities for several days should be left accessible to your pet.

- Identify your house with an appropriate sticker or emblem for rescue and animal welfare authorities
- Under no circumstances leave your pet tied up or otherwise restrained, in many situations this signs their death warrant

FINALLY, REMEMBER TO KEEP YOUR PLANS UPDATED.

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Feedback is welcomed. Please
email tess@animal-emergency-planning.co.uk