marin humane
Lives made happy.

Prepare

Barnyard Animals Disaster Plan

Having a disaster plan ready for your large and barnyard animals can make all the difference. Not only will it reduce stress but it'll save precious time and possibly lives.

Learn how to keep your barnyard animals safe during a disaster.

Develop a Barn Safety and Evacuation Plan

Your evacuation plan should outline each type of disaster and determine specific scenarios best suited for each situation. Include a list of resources such as trucks, trailers, pasture, and/or feed, as well as a designated person who will unlock gates and doors to make your facility easily accessible to emergency personnel.

- Be sure to sign up for emergency notifications such as Nixle or Alert Marin
- Post your plan where it's clearly visible
- Make sure everyone who lives, works, or boards at your barn is familiar with your plan
- Get to know your neighbors and their animals
- Select a neighborhood coordinator who is familiar with your evacuation plan and can assist should a disaster occur when you're not there
- Learn how to handle your neighbors' animals and identify those that have special handing needs (i.e. stallions)
- Post an updated phone/email list of all neighbors and anyone who boards at your facility

Food/Water Requirements During a Disaster

Be sure to plan on a water source in the event of a disaster. During a disaster, all animals should be given unrestricted access to water. With the exception of birds, animals can go extended periods of time without food but can only last a couple of days at most without water. The values below are approximate per adult animal per day and may vary greatly with temperature, workload, stress, and disease. Sources of feed should be identified before a disaster.

In general, most herbivorous animals eat approximately 1-2% of their body weight in some form of roughage. Roughage is hay or hay-like products (pellets, cubes, etc.). In an emergency, grain products or other concentrates need not be given.

During and Following a Disaster

Your personal safety and the safety of those around you should always be your first concern. A solid plan will help you remain calm and think clearly. Remember to communicate and cooperate with all emergency personnel. If you must leave the premises, let someone know where you are going and try to remain in contact with that person.

In the Event of a Fire

Contact emergency personnel immediately. Do not enter burning buildings as smoke inhalation can be deadly. Report changes in wind direction, speed, and fire behavior. Post a lookout for possible dangers. Have your trailer hitched and pointed toward the road. Leave barn doors unlocked and keys in the ignition. Put halters on animals and keep gates unlocked but secure. If you believe that the barn will burn before emergency personnel arrive, release the animals to a confined area to shelter in place.

DISASTER FOOD SCHEDULE

Species	Water (Summer/Winter)	Food Type	Food Quantity	Food Frequency
Beef Cattle	5–15 Gallons	Alfalfa &/or Oat Hay	15–30 lbs.	Daily
Dairy Cattle	5–30 Gallons	Alfalfa	15–40 lbs.	Daily
Horses	5–15 Gallons	Alfalfa &/or Oat Hay	8–15 lbs. Depending on weight	Twice Daily
Pigs	1–2 Gallons	Pig Pellets/ Mixed Grains	1–7 lbs. Depending on weight	Once or Twice Daily
Llamas	2–5 Gallons	Alfalfa &/or Oat Hay	2–4 lbs.	Twice daily
Sheep	1–2 Gallons	Alfalfa	2–5 lbs.	Daily
Goats	1–2 Gallons	Alfalfa &/or Oat Hay	1–5 lbs	Daily

If you're caught out in the open when a fire hits, seek areas with sparse vegetation or bare ground. Lie face down in a depression and cover yourself with anything that will protect you from the heat. Avoid trying to outrun the head of the fire; instead, watch for slower burning flanks. Don't attempt to control the animals that are with you – let them go free as they'll have a better chance of escaping the fire on their own.

In the Event of a Flood

If you receive notice of rapidly rising waters, move all animals, feed, and water to higher ground. Escape routes may be cut off quickly so avoid leaving animals in standing water or in areas that may be cut off by the flood. And never drive through standing water.

In the Event of an Earthquake

During the earthquake, remember to drop, cover, and hold on. Once the tremors have stopped, take a good look around. Do not enter buildings that may have become unstable. Like you, your animals will be frightened and will need reassurance. If an animal has become injured or trapped, call emergency personnel immediately. Be prepared for aftershocks.

If You Must Leave Your Animals Behind

Post a highly visible sign (either on a window or door) letting rescue workers know the breed and number of animals that remain. Leave plenty of food and water in a container that cannot be tipped over. Place extra food close to the animals so rescue workers can feed them daily. Never tie animals or confine them to an area that may be easily destroyed. Be sure that the animals cannot get loose onto roads or highways, as this can lead to injury to both humans and animals and interfere with emergency rescue vehicles. Ideally, you'll be able to secure your animals in a pasture.

If Your Animal Becomes Lost

Immediately call, visit, or check the social media channels of the nearest animal shelter. When deemed safe, return to your neighborhood to post and distribute lost animal posters, which should include all your contact information and a picture of the animal. Animals may stay hidden for weeks so be patient and continue searching your area.

If You Find a Lost Animal

If you find a lost animal, please notify the local animal shelter as soon as possible and be prepared to give a full description of the animal, as well as their location. Remember that sick and/or injured animals can become unpredictable and should be handled by a professional.

Identify Your Animal

Keep animals' vaccinations current and put photographs, papers, and other identifying documents in a safe and easily accessible location. Microchip your animals so they have permanent identification.

What You Can Do to Help

- Organize a neighborhood rescue group
- Join an animal rescue team and learn techniques to aid animals during a disaster
- See if there's a local animal care organization that can use your help

Reduce Hazards

- Maintain a fire break around all buildings
- Mow weeds and trim trees that reside close to any buildings
- Regularly clean roofs and gutters
- Repair exposed wires, rotten supports, and blocked waterways
- Post "No Smoking" signs
- Clearly label all shut-offs
- Store combustibles, such as hay, straw, wood, shavings, and gasoline, away from barns
- Remove overhanging trees that may fall on animals or buildings
- Keep an adequate water source

Prepare a Disaster Kit

A disaster kit kept in a safe and easily accessible place will enable you to provide immediate care to your animals in an emergency. Items to include:

- Ladder(s), long enough to reach the roof
- Shovels
- Rakes
- Non-spill bowls
- Water buckets
- Flashlight or lanterns
- Blankets
- Minimum 100 feet of hose
- Cotton ropes
- Cotton halters and lead ropes
- First-aid book
- Portable first-aid kit
- Collars
- Animal handling equipment
- Blindfolds
- Fence panels
- Hot wire kits
- Battery powered radio

Finally, be sure to sign up for any emergency alert systems in your community via your mobile devices.

For more information, visit marinhumane.org or call 415.883.4621

marin humane
Lives made happy.

171 Bel Marin Keys Blvd., Novato, CA 94949
marinhumane.org