



## Livestock Animals In Disaster

Adapted from FEMA Handbook, "Are you Ready?"



If you have large animals such as horses, cattle, sheep, goats, pigs or poultry on your property, be sure to prepare for disasters that might affect them.

1. Evacuate animals whenever possible. Map out primary and secondary routes in advance.
2. Evacuation destinations (host sites) should be prepared with, or ready to obtain, food, water, veterinary care, and handling equipment.
3. Vehicles and trailers needed for transporting and supporting each type of animal should be available along with experienced handlers and drivers. It is best to allow animals to become accustomed to vehicular travel so they are less frightened and easier to move.
4. In case evacuation is not possible, animal owners should decide whether to move large animals to shelter or turn them outside. The decision should be based on type of disaster and quality and location of shelter. Inform emergency managers of the type and number of animals not evacuated. Never try to reenter an evacuated area to care for animals without permission of the emergency manager.
5. All animals should have some form of identification such ear tags, neck bands, leg bands, current photos, etc.

## Animals After Disaster

Wild and stray domestic animals can pose a danger during and after many types of disasters. Remember, most animals are disoriented and displaced, too. If an animal must be removed, call your local animal control or wildlife resource authorities. If an animal bites you, seek medical attention.

Certain animals may carry rabies. Although the virus is rare, care should be taken to avoid contact with wild and stray domestic animals. Health departments can provide information on the types of animals that can carry rabies in this area. Be sure that your pet's rabies vaccinations are current and you have proof.

Rats and other rodents may also be a problem during and after many types of disaster. Be sure to secure all food supplies and contact local animal control authorities to remove any animal carcasses in the vicinity.

Food, feed and water that has been exposed to flood waters or airborne contaminants should never be offered to animals. This type of food and water may harbor dangerous bacteria, molds or chemicals. Call your local veterinarian or County Extension Agent for advice.

The following phone numbers are for more information on animals in disasters in the Knox County area:

American Red Cross	584-2999
Knox County Agricultural Extension Office	215-2340
Knox County Emergency Management Agency	215-2297
Knox County Animal Control	215-5240
Knox County Health Department	215-5000

