



Animal Owner Information at Evacuation Sites

NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) as the Agriculture & Animal Services Functional Area (AASFA) including supporting organisations Local Land Services, RSPCA, and Animal Welfare League, are here to help provide emergency shelter and welfare for your animals during this evacuation.

The safety of you and your animals are of highest priority – please follow all written and verbal directions given by AASFA personnel and report any incidents or accidents immediately. Security measures will be implemented as required, such as secure housing and 24/7 watch.

Animals are registered when sheltered at an evacuation site. This requires the recording of information of both the owner and animal, to ensure adequate care and safe return.

Owner responsibilities

You are responsible for your animals' care while they are here. This includes:

- Providing food and water for your animal (basic emergency supply for the first 24 hours is available if required)
- Exercising your animal
- Attending to animals that display anti-social behaviour, such as barking or howling
- Cleaning your animals' housing
- Supplying/administering medications
- Arranging veterinary care, if necessary, with your own veterinarian (we can organise alternate veterinary care if required)
- Checking your animals' accommodation is suitable for their stay
- Alerting staff if your animal is ill, aggressive or presents a risk to other animals or people
- Keeping your animal restrained when outside their housing or designated exercise area

Please be aware that animals in this Centre may be at risk of injury or infection due to being sheltered with other animals.

AASFA personnel will take all care but no responsibility for animals that are registered for shelter at this Emergency Evacuation Centre.

Contacting you

Please ensure that you, or responsible alternate, are contactable during your animals' stay at the Centre. AASFA personnel will attempt to contact you if your animal needs to be relocated should the emergency situation change or if your animal requires veterinary or other special attention.

Removing your animals from the centre

You may remove your animals at any time from emergency care. Where possible we encourage alternative accommodation more familiar to your animal. You are required to inform AASFA personnel and sign the animal release form before removing your animal from the Centre.

You will be advised when the Emergency Evacuation Centre is to shut down. You must collect and remove your animal at this time. Please contact AASFA personnel for assistance if you are unable to make your own arrangements to shelter and care for your animals after the Centre is closed. Animals not collected from the Centre will be transferred to an appropriate agency and a collection fee may apply. An animal welfare agency under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979* may rehome an animal after boarding it for more than 21 days and is unable to find or contact the owner.