



Animal Owner Information at Evacuation Sites

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

To help us help you, evacuees are requested to be aware of the following whilst you are at this site.

The safety of you and your animals are of the highest priority. Please follow all written and verbal directions given by AASFA personnel and report any incidents or accidents immediately. Security measures may be implemented as required, such as secure housing of animals.

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 72 hours may be available if required)
- Cleaning up after your animal, including waste and bedding
- Exercising your animal
- Attending to animals that display anti-social behaviour, such as barking or howling
- Supplying/administering medications
- Arranging veterinary care, if necessary
- 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
- Keeping your animals away from eating areas, children and other evacuees for their safety

AASFA personnel will provide support for you to care for your animals but it is your responsibility adequate care is provided to maintain their welfare. Please ask for any assistance you may require.

Please be aware that animals at any site may be at risk of injury or infection due to being sheltered with other animals.

If you are unable to remain responsible for your animals e.g. need to leave the site and have no other alternate safe accommodation options please seek advice from AASFA personnel. When responsibility of care transfers to AASFA your animals will be registered. This requires the recording of information of both the owner and animal, for accurate identification, providing adequate care and safe return.

Removing your animals from the centre

You may remove your animals at any time from emergency care. Where possible we encourage alternative safe accommodation options for you and your animal.

You will be advised when the site is to shut down. You must collect and remove your animal before closure. Please contact AASFA personnel for assistance if you are unable to make your own arrangements to shelter and care for your animals after the site is closed. Animals not collected from the site 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 if unable to find or contact the owner.