

Evacuating Pets and Livestock

If you've prepared an evacuation plan for your family and taken steps to protect your home, you're not in the clear yet. There's yet another important plan to develop: taking care of your animals.

Because pets are part of your family and livestock are part of a livelihood, wildfire preparedness means taking responsibility for them, as well.

Protecting your home means protecting animal habits such as kennels, coops and barns. Corrals and pastures should also be included in your defensible space or have one of their own, according to advice from the Idaho Farm Bureau.

Creating an effective evacuation plan for your pets and livestock includes following these steps provided by the Bureau and follows the proper sequence for safe evacuation: people, pets, livestock and property.

Identify evacuation routes. Fires can move quickly, so it is best to identify at least two evacuation routes. If towing trailers, drive all routes to ensure compatibility with the road's width and grade before a disaster strikes — a stuck trailer could prevent others from using the same way out.



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Know where to take your animals. Most evacuation centers cannot accept animals (service animals are permitted). Contact your local fairgrounds, stockyards, equestrian centers and/or friends about their ability to shelter animals in an emergency.

Have transportation. Keep stock trailers in good repair and make sure your vehicle is tow-ready. If you don't have your own truck and trailer, make arrangements with local companies or neighbors. It takes extra time to evacuate animals, so practice loading trailers before wildfire threatens.

Share your plan. Family and

neighbors should have a copy of your plan in the event you are not home when a wildfire evacuation is ordered for your area. Make sure everyone has all contact numbers (cell-phone, work, home, etc.).

Prepare emergency kits for pets and livestock. When building the kit, choose a container that is easily loaded into vehicles. Keep your kits in an easily accessible, dry location where temperatures do not get hot or below freezing.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS KIT FOR ANIMALS

Identification: All pets should be wearing properly fit-

ted collars with personal identification, license and rabies registration tags. Include a relative's phone number in case you and your pet get separated.

Copies of important papers and phone numbers:

Cellphones and internet access could be temporarily out of service, so include a paper list of all important phone numbers (veterinarian, animal shelter/boarding facility, neighbors/friends, etc.).

A list of all medicines and doses.

Food and water: Store a three- to seven-day supply of food and water for each animal. Include non-spill bowls,

buckets, can openers and spoons.

First aid kit: Include cotton bandage rolls and tape, scissors, antibiotic ointment, medical-type gloves, isopropyl alcohol and saline solution.

Waste disposal: Pack a small cat litter box, scoop and litter, plastic bags for waste disposal, newspapers, paper towels and disinfectants. For larger animals include dry shavings for stalls, a pitchfork, shovel, fly spray and masks, towels, trash bags, spray cleaner and hand sanitizer.

Miscellaneous items: Having personal items such as blankets, toys and treats can help calm your animals.