



# Companion animals and bushfires

## Have a bushfire plan

It's important to have a plan of action for how you will keep your pets and hobby farm animals safe during a bushfire. Starting to develop your bushfire plan could be as simple as having a conversation with your household, making sure that everyone knows:

- what your triggers are for evacuation (high fire risk days, emergency alerts)
- evacuation routes, planning for fire travelling in several possible directions
- how you will transport different animals (ensuring you know where cages, leads are stored)
- where animals can stay during a fire (family, friends, boarding facility, pet-friendly accommodation)
- how you will protect animals if they are unable to be evacuated, such as moving animals to areas with no vegetation
- how you will maintain containment (fencing) and provision of food and water for your animals after the fire has passed.

## Make an emergency kit

On high fire risk days, assemble essentials to take with you in case you must evacuate, including:

- at least three days of feed
- leads, harnesses/muzzles/halters
- animal carriers
- vaccination records
- any medications.

## Prepare your property

- Ensure your animals always have a water supply that will last them at least five days, even if you expect to return home that evening.
- Ensure your animal trailers are roadworthy and easily accessible at all times.

## Identification

Ensure pets are microchipped, and that microchip details are updated, to help facilitate their return in case they become lost. Include proof of ownership/identification records in your emergency kit.

**Remember:** Dogs and cats may hide or flee during fire, so should be brought inside so they can be easily found in case of evacuation.

### Important disclaimer

The Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and the State of Western Australia accept no liability whatsoever by reason of negligence or otherwise arising from the use or release of this information or any part of it.

ABN: 18 951 343 745