

ANIMAL OWNERS EMERGENCY PLANNING CHECKLIST

If you follow these guidelines and check off all the items on this list in advance, you will greatly improve the chances of bringing your animals through an emergency safely.

BEFORE AN EMERGENCY HAPPENS OR DISASTER STRIKES:

- 1) **Create an Emergency Plan** that suits your personal circumstances and ensure it is flexible enough to meet a variety of situations.
- 2) **Register for emergency notification systems** such as Ready Kern, Nixle, Code Red, etc, so that you receive early alerts and/or warnings of possible threats/emergencies.
- 3) **Assemble a Disaster Preparedness Kit** containing essential supplies such as water, food, & medications; the Kit should include an Emergency Folder which has a copy of your Emergency Plan and other important paperwork in it.
- 4) **Post copies of your Emergency Plan clearly** in case you are not at home when an emergency arises, so others know what to do and where to take your animals if necessary.
- 5) **Use your Smartphone/Ipad to store electronic copies/photos** of your Emergency Plan, important documents, identifying photos of your animals, etc. There are free Emergency Preparedness apps available to help you make your preparations, so download and use one.
- 6) **Microchip all animals**, or otherwise permanently ID them. If you become separated from your animals, this will make being reunited with them much easier.
- 7) **Form a ‘Buddy System’** with neighbors/friends and make reciprocal arrangements so that your animals will be evacuated and/or taken care of even if you are not at home when an emergency arises. Keep a copy of your Buddies’ plans with your own. Forming a ‘Buddy System’ means you can share transport, resources and care of your animals as a team.
- 8) **Decide in advance where you would take your animals** during an emergency to shelter, for example a friend’s property or a county shelter site. Have several options as your first choice may not be available for various reasons, for example the roads may be closed or blocked.
- 9) **Take measures to prepare your property to Shelter in Place** by ensuring it is safe, for example brush clearance around all fences and buildings to guard against wildfire. Store essential supplies, especially as much water as possible.
- 10) **Ensure your street number is clearly visible** from the street in order to make it easier for First Responders or others to find your property.

- 11) **If possible practice loading your animals into trailers on a regular basis.** Not everyone has the luxury of owning a trailer, but you may be able to borrow a friend's trailer to practice. If not, practice ground work skills regularly so that your horses are obedient to your every cue, which will greatly enhance your chances of successfully loading them in an emergency.