

## Emergency kit

- 7–10 days feed and water supplies
- Torch and batteries
- Blankets
- Vet records and proof of ownership
- First aid kit
- Current prescription medications
- Emergency contact list
- Grooming gear
- Feed and care instructions
- Fly repellent
- Halter and leads
- Rope
- Water buckets
- Wire cutters
- Knife
- Shovel
- Rubbish bags
- Map of local area

## First aid kit

Always talk to your vet about your first aid kit, but it should include,

- Bandages
- Bandage Scissors
- Betadine®
- Cotton Rolls
- Gloves (latex)
- Saline
- Thermometer
- Towel
- Non-adherent dressings
- Wound gels and ointments
- Tweezers
- Gauze swabs
- Eye rinse
- Current prescription and emergency medications

## Emergency contacts

Write your phone numbers here and keep them handy.

**Your veterinarian:**

**Local department of Resources and Primary Industry:**

**Department of Agriculture and Food:**

**Department of Primary Industries:**

**RSPCA:**

**Other:**



## Keeping your horse safe in emergencies

Have your disaster management plan ready, and be prepared!

### Australian Veterinary Association

Unit 40, 6 Herbert Street,  
St Leonards NSW 2065

**P:** 02 9431 5000 **F:** 02 9437 9068

**E:** [members@ava.com.au](mailto:members@ava.com.au) **W:** [www.ava.com.au](http://www.ava.com.au)

## Why do I need a disaster plan for my horse?

Australia is prone to natural disasters such as cyclones, storms and floods. On average, 10 cyclones develop in Northern Australia each year. These events can affect many animals including our horses. It is important to be prepared for these events to ensure that we and our horses stay safe.

## Don't wait till it's too late!

Often cyclones, storms and floods can come quite suddenly and sometimes without warning. Without prior preparation, feed can become scarce and floodwaters can prevent transportation to a safe location. If a disaster strikes, staying behind without an adequate disaster plan can put you and your horse at risk of serious injury or death.



## Disaster plan

Make sure your emergency kit is prepared at the start of the cyclone and flood season.

It is important to decide beforehand on a safe place to keep your horse in an emergency. In making this decision, the vital points to consider are whether the place is prone to flooding, close to cyclonic winds, is at risk of flying debris, and whether it can be accessed after an extreme event.

If it is likely that you will need to evacuate your horse, you should determine when will be the most appropriate and safest time to do so.

Practice your disaster plan at least once before each wet season.

## Horse identification

Clearly identify your horse before a potential disaster hits.

Often brands will not be the easiest way to link the horse back to you.

It is important to use other identification:

- Neck band with name and phone number
- Microchip
- Halter tag
- Luggage tag braided into the mane or tail
- Clipper-shaved information in the animal's hair
- Livestock marker or spray paint
- Permanent marker on hoof wall

## During an emergency

### Implement your disaster plan.

If evacuation is impossible, move your horses to the safest place possible on the premises.

Whether you leave a horse in the paddock or in the stables should depend on the type of emergency and the risk of injury from material or trees in the paddocks, the likelihood of flooding and the stability of their stables.

If time permits, secure or remove all loose objects. Make sure the horses have access to a safe food and water source. Do not rely on automatic water systems as power may be lost.

## After the emergency

Survey the area for hazards such as sharp objects, dangerous materials, live wires and contaminated water.

Check your horses for any injuries and release them into safe and enclosed areas, only during daylight. Watch them closely for the next few hours. Often familiar areas and scents have changed which can confuse your horse and alter its behaviour.

If your horse has been without food for a long period, reintroduce food slowly and in small portions. Allow free access to clean water. Do not give cold water.

Allow uninterrupted rest to recover from trauma and stress.

If your horse is lost, contact your local shelters, relief teams and emergency contacts daily.