



BUSHFIRE PREPAREDNESS - YOUR PETS

The effects of bush fires on both people and pets can be terrifying and traumatic. To minimise the risks to your family and pets make arrangements for their safety at the start of the Bush Fire Danger Season each year.

Never evacuate yourself and leave your animals to fend for themselves. Notwithstanding the dangers of bush fire, you may be prosecuted by the RSPCA.

If you are directed to evacuate by the police you will be permitted to take your pets with you to the designated place of safety. They will then be collected from you by the RSPCA and cared for until the danger has passed. If your house is burnt out, the RSPCA will care for your animals until you have relocated.

Dogs

It is imperative that your dog wears a collar with an ID disc attached at all times. The disc should be engraved with the name of the dog, your surname and telephone number.

When there is a bushfire in your area (before any potential evacuation), dogs should be kept inside the house.

Cats

Owners of cats should have a wire basket labelled with the cat's name and description, (colour, sex, etc.), plus owners name, address and telephone number.

Cat carry baskets, (which are also suitable for rabbits, guinea pigs, etc), are available from pet shops, veterinary clinics and the RSPCA.

Birds

Cages should be labelled in a similar way to cat carry baskets. Ensure you have provided drinking water and have sufficient food for your pet.

Livestock

Loss of farm animals can be prevented by preparing and maintaining fuel-reduced areas onto which stock can be moved and held during fires. This means using fallow paddocks, well grazed smaller paddocks or raceways, irrigated pasture or summer crop areas.

Stock yards and holding paddocks must be eaten out and, where possible, have shade and water available to provide emergency protection areas for valuable stud or breeding stock.

For more information on bushfire safety and home fire safety, visit the Rural Fire Service website at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au or call the RFS Education Line on 1 800 654 443 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm).