



A Horse Owners Guide to Emergency Preparedness

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Dedication

For Ralph. My trusty dancing bay pony.

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Introduction

In the aftermath of hurricanes in Louisiana such as Gustav, Katrina, and Isaac, it has come to light the importance of including not only pets in disaster planning, but also large animals such as horses, and cattle. Large animals can have a value to their owners as an investment, income, or sentimental. Because of these values, an owner or bystanders may put themselves at risk by not evacuating in a disaster or by trying to rescue an animal. Large animals however, present a challenge mainly due to their size and mass when it comes to evacuation or rescue. Specialized methods, equipment, and training have been developed to protect not only the owner and animal, but first responders who may find themselves in large animal response scenarios. Some incidents of rescue however, may be prevented if owners knew how to prepare for a disaster.

The purpose of this book is to show the importance of including large animals in disaster planning, and to educate horse owners on how to be better prepared for a disaster. As a horse owner, the owner has chosen to take on the responsibility of caring for their equine companion. Part of this responsibility is to keep their horse safe during an emergency or disaster. This book not only goes over the importance of planning, but includes forms for owners to fill out that will help them during a disaster. As a horse owner, think about risk and natural disasters in your area. Is your area prone to hurricanes, tornados, flooding, mudslides, wildfires, or even just severe storms? Your plan should be catered to the types of disasters that your local area may experience. A copy of the recommened forms in this book should be kept by the owner, where the horse lives, in the trailer which may transport the horse, and anywhere else the owner thinks would be appropriate. The barn manager, farm help, friends, and family should also know what

the emergency plan is, and where it is located. A copy of this plan can help responders care for your horse should you be unable to, such as through separation.

Overview

Large animal disaster preparedness and rescue have become major issues over the past years. Many people own large animals such as horses and cattle, which are valuable as an investment, income, or have sentimental value. It is because of these reasons that owners will put themselves in danger by not evacuating or by trying to rescue one of their large animals in need during an incident or disaster. To protect these owners and the animals they wish to rescue, special training has been developed with methods and equipment to assist in these particularly challenging incidents(although training and personell may not be available in all areas). Large animal rescue is nothing new. Before the invention of the combustion engine, horses, oxen and other beast of burden were one man's main mode of transportation and work. Because of this, these animals were very valuable for livelihood and were well taken care of. An example of this is that back in 1867, Massachusetts had the first equine ambulance equipped with a crude sling for equine patients.

Today the role of these large animals, especially horses, has moved from that of which it used to be. Cattle still play the same role as a food source as they once did, but the role of horses has been replaced by motorized vehicles and American culture now puts the horse into a more companion animal role, although the horse is still considered livestock and many still use it for ranching needs. Because of this, developments in large animals rescue and techniques slowed. An example of this would be the closing of Harvard University's veterinary hospital. Horses made up the majority of its patients, but "with the assumption that horses would no longer be necessary as cars became more available and affordable, the hospital closed in 1904" (Gimenez 4). Just like before though, these animals can find themselves in incidents which require human assistance for rescue. Today, better methods have been developed to free these animals from

predicaments by assisting, shifting or lifting the animal without causing further harm to the victim, and with less risk to rescue personnel (although all rescues have inherent risk).

In past years, if an owner found their horse in need of rescue, such as being stuck in the mud, they would call friends and neighbors for assistance to free the animal, as is sometimes the case today. Tractors, winches, and ropes were often the equipment of choice for this rescue, but without proper training, the horse and sometimes rescuers, were injured and even killed as a result of the rescue. Today many owners call 911 and expect their tax paid and volunteer first responders to be able to rescue the animal safely. Unfortunately in an informal survey of law and fire service personnel by the authors of *Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue*, it was discovered that only about 5% of first responders knew something about handling large animals and even fewer than that felt comfortable about handling a large animal (Gimenez XI). This shows a need for more training to safely rescue large animals. Today, there are several organizations and schools that offer this specialized training.

This book is written for an awareness of including large animals in disaster planning and to help prevent some of these rescue incidents by preparing owners. Since many people do not own or are running a major barn, or their horses as a business, they do not have an established operating procedure or plans in place, such as what to do in emergency situations, or even a decided on consent on the amount they are willing to spend on medical care to save their horse. This book contains how to make a plan for disasters so that owners will be prepared.

Importance

Animals and American Culture:

Why waste time and money saving one animal's life? Will one animal really make that big of an impact on a person's income, investment, or life (from sentimental value)? Well, some animals have gained a high status in the United States, and many animal owners consider their pets as another family member. From natural disasters, such as hurricanes, it has been seen that pet owners are often reluctant to evacuate without their animal companions. A famous example of this would be during Hurricane Katrina when many owners would not leave their pet in order to evacuate early or were forced to be separated from their pets at shelters that did not offer pet accommodations. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the PETS Act (Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act) was passed in 2006 by President George W. Bush which now requires FEMA and other emergency agencies to include pets in their emergency planning ("PETS Act prevails"). This act, however, does not include livestock (which horses are classified as), nor commercial animals. Some states, such as Florida, will aid livestock and production animals. In the American Animal Hospital Association's pet owner survey, 74% of owners said they were willing to go into debt to care for their pets and 27% have included their pets in their will (Gardyn 16). These examples show the status of animals in American culture and are why many owners will risk their life to rescue their beloved animal. To protect well-meaning animal owners, rescue personnel will use resources to rescue the animal. However, the PETS Act specifically excludes farm animals, to include horses, in the new required planning for other animals which makes it even more important for large animal owners to be prepared.

Large Animals:

Although many large animals do not hold the same cultural status as other small companion animals, with maybe the exception of the horse, many people still want to see an animal in need rescued. Large animals present a bigger challenge in being rescued than the small animals. Even large dogs can often be picked up and carried by a strong man from being trapped in a well. A horse however, even a miniature horse, requires extra assistance in the form of training and equipment. Methods have been developed to safely rescue large animals without further injuring them while keeping rescuers as safe as possible. In my experience, I have developed five points for why large animals should be included in emergency planning. These include psychological, ethics, disease, human livelihood, and environmental. Remember though, farm animals (which include horses), are not covered in the PETS Act for planning nor funding for rescue or mitigation.

Benefits of Planning

Psychological- Animal and Human Safety:

Many people, especially in United States culture, view their pet not only with just sentimental value, but as another member of the family. However, people will often forget to include their pets in an emergency plan and put themselves at risk to save them. The injury or loss of a pet can cause serious emotional distress and some refuse to evacuate without their pets.

Animals hold such a high status in American culture, that people will often become amateur rescuers to try to help animals in need. Rescuing large animals (cattle, horses, llamas, alpacas, pigs, goats, and sheep) is more challenging than small animal rescue mainly due to the mass and volume of the animal. A cat or dog can be easily carried while the previous cannot. Amateur rescuers trying to save a cow that has fallen in a ravine will often use the animals head, neck, and legs as anchor points to pull from and this often causes the animal to pull back and fight rescuers instead of helping, besides the fact that using this method could injure the animal further (Gimenez 21). Proper training makes these rescues not only more successful, but more efficient. In the UK, three counties that had training and equipment improved their animal rescue success rate from 4-10% to ~96%, see table 1(Gimenez 10)!

Untrained rescuers also often forget to assess the situation before rescue. This leads to the animal not receiving initial life-support or medical attention, which is often easier to administer while the animals is trapped than when it is out. For example, if you have a horse stuck in the mud for several hours, it will probably be dehydrated and it is much easier to start an IV while the animal is 'stuck' than when it is out and perhaps wanting to run from the crowd of people. The lack of

planning before the rescue also often includes not planning for what to do with the animal once it is out of its predicament. Has containing the animal been thought of so that it doesn't run back into the mud it was just rescued from or into a busy street? Has transportation been thought of to get the animal away from the area, or to a veterinarian to be treated for trauma or injuries?

Another factor is human safety. Many injuries occur each year rescuing animals. One fatality, 192 hospital stays longer than three days, and 178 serious injuries were recorded from 1999-2002 from both small and large animal rescues to police officers in the UK (Gimenez 18). Even animals that are normally gentle and calm may become frantic and unpredictable in rescue situations where a lot of stress is involved. Loud and strange equipment used in rescue can also frighten an animal and cause the animal to react unfavorably. Remember, we are predators by nature, horses are prey animals, so even a well trained horse may have that self preservation instinct to kick when there are all these "predators" around (the horse does not understand you are trying to rescue it). This can make the situation dangerous if not properly trained because less than 3,000 years of domestication has not even put a dent in 300 million or more years of evolution (Gimenez 2008). Knowledge of large animal behavior for is crucial to personal safety and knowing how the animal may protect itself by biting and kicking. An accidental kick from even a small horse can cause serious injury or death. For this reason, first responders will often rescue animals to protect the general public from becoming involved. Gimenez recounts a 2004 rescue of two Canadian geese that were trapped in a frozen lake in which "saving geese or other animals is not a priority of the fire department, but saving human life is"(Gimenez 22). An ice rescue team was dispatched to save the geese to prevent bystanders from trying to rescue the animals and possibly ending up needing rescuing themselves.

Ethics:

Animals are considered property and it is the owner’s responsibility to care for their animals.

Neglect is often thought of when animal control officials must confiscate an animal from its owner due to lack of proper care. In the public eye, neglect can also be not aiding an animal in need of rescue. This leads to amateur rescuers and once again, first responders stepping in to keep the public safe and figure 1 shows just how linked humans are to livestock in incidents or disasters. Many people think that rescuing the animal regardless of value is just the right thing to do. If a situation is deemed too dangerous on human life, then the animal will not be rescued.

However, no one wants to see an animal in distress and suffering.



Fig.1 Livestock in Disasters. Model of affects of livestock in disasters

Disease:

Protecting or saving an animal can also help with disease control. Disease and parasites may spread more easily in a disaster environment which does not always allow for best management practices and sanitation conditions. For example, a farmer probably doesn't want to leave a dead animal in a pond or creek where other animals drink, or even to decay around other animals where it can become a host to bacteria and parasites. The cost of removing the carcass may be worth rescuing the animal. During a disaster, it is important to remember that animals can be stressed and possibly crowded due to less space, possibly from flooding, and this can lead to the ideal environment for disease to spread. This may also protect humans from certain zoonotic diseases by preventing their spread.

Human Livelihood:

Many large animals are very important for food and trade, and this is how some people make a living. Other animals may be an investment for show or breeding stock. Disasters will have the most impact on this- hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, severe winter, drought, wildfires, disease outbreaks, and earthquakes are natural disasters that can destroy farms and ranches. Man-made disasters such as oil/chemical spills can also lead to disasters if they contaminate animal food and water. Although saving individual animals doesn't seem to make that much of an impact on farms, replacing these animals can add up quickly, especially if they are high quality animals.

Environment:

Protecting the environment is very important, especially if someone is trying to raise livestock on a piece of land. Rescuing animals can keep food and water sources, such as ponds and growing forages, safe from decaying carcasses. It may be worth rescuing an animal rather than putting it

down only to have to recover the carcass and replace the animal. This will keep the herd safe in the long run. Even catching loose animals can save fencing.

Planning for Emergencies and Disasters

Why do I need a plan?

Horses are not covered under the PETS Act for disasters, so it is the owners responsibility to plan for their horses. Having a disaster plan in place will not only make an event much smoother and less stressful, but it can also lead to a faster recovery and better outcomes. Think about past disasters that are common to your area such as flooding, hurricanes, tornados, or even just severe storms. There are many things you will have to tend to in a disaster such as your family, home, property, and animals. You should include your animals in your plan as they depend on you. During a disaster, it can be difficult to find everyday resources such as feed, hay, water, fuel, vet supplies, and veterinary care for your pet. The emotional distress of a disaster can be overwhelming and the better you have prepared, the easier it will be.

What can go wrong?

In a disaster, anything can go wrong! You should not only have a plan, but a backup plan. You should also have your plan written down and stored where appropriate, such as in a tack room, barn office, trailer, and your home. Make sure your family, friends, barn personnel, and anyone who may help you in a disaster scenario, such as neighbors, know your plan and where copies are located. In the event that you require outside assistance, having a written plan with good records will help responders aid you. Should you need to evacuate, having relationships previously established ahead of time for a place to stay will prevent having to finding shelter last minute when many others will be also seeking the same. Remember, state, federal, and other organizations are there to assist you and are not responsible for your decisions, such as the decision not to prepare.

Keep it Current:

Make it an annual event to review, update, and practice your plan. You should keep at least three copies of your plan in binders. One binder for where the horse is boarded, one to keep in the trailer that may transport the horse, and one for the owner to keep handy in the event of an emergency. Additional copies can be stored as needed. If your pages are not laminated, you should write in pencil, so should the pages become wet, it will not be unreadable due to ink running.

The only thing more difficult than planning for a disaster is trying to explain why you didn't.

What to Include

There are basic parts, that no matter that the scenario, that you will want in your plan. These include-

- Contact Information
- Emergency Phone Numbers
- Profile sheet on each animal
- Map of Facility
- Gear Check List
- Standard Operating Guidelines for Sheltering in Place
- Standard Operating Guidelines for Evacuating
- Standard Operating Guidelines for Reunion

There are pre-made forms in this book to be filled out as part of this. Having these filled out, and knowing what you will be doing will make reacting to an emergency much more efficient and effective. The basic information will be used weather you decide to shelter in place or evacuate, the two choices of which you should also have planned for. Planning for unexpected challenges will prepare you to weather the storm as preparation is the key to survival.

Risk and Concerns

Inspection of Property:

Daily routines and management procedures will be interrupted during incidents and disasters.

Special precautions should be taken to prevent the spread of disease and parasites, and to keep animals from becoming more stressed or injured. Natural disasters can create the ideal environment for the spread of disease and parasites! Dispose of animal carcasses and standing water that can become a breeding ground for this. Inspect your property to be sure fences are undamaged and that there are no dangerous objects that should be removed, such as tin sheets or even dangerous wildlife, before deeming it safe for animals. Be sure to evaluate the structural integrity of buildings after an incident before anyone is allowed to enter.

Sanitation:

Keep facilities clean and disinfected. You should establish an area far enough away to dispose of waste such as old/moldy feed/hay, and dirty shavings/bedding. This will help to prevent the spread of parasites and cut down on flies around the facility. You should also try to drain any standing water as this can become a breeding ground for mosquitoes and other disease transferring parasites.

Health Evaluation and Quarantine:

All animals should be evaluated after a disaster. Animal behavior may drastically change under the stress of an emergency situation, from being removed from their usual habitat, or from being separated from their usual herd mates. Usually calm animals may become fractious and difficult to handle. You should evaluate each animal and monitor those considered a risk in a safe and secure enclosure. Evaluate animals in teams to prevent the risk of someone being knocked down

that may not be able to call for help. Let the most experienced person wrangle livestock.

Designate areas to quarantine sick animals, put animals not yet evaluated, to evaluate and wash, and for clean, healthy animals. Having these staging areas will help to keep everything organized and contain possible disease. You should perform a health evaluation on each animal to determine which designated area it should be housed at. Never put an animal in the clean and healthy animal area until it has been evaluated! Animals should be washed after this evaluation in case it was exposed harmful chemicals in water runoff, especially if there was standing flood water. Try to avoid changes in the diet as it may cause the animal to colic. If you do need to switch the type of feed or amount given, do so gradually over time.

Sheltering in Place

Safety Decision:

You should monitor conditions for each incident and take careful consideration as to whether it is safe for you to shelter in place. Sheltering in place, when it is safe, allows easier maintenance of property and saves you from relocating animals and equipment. This can be especially helpful when it involves large numbers of livestock in which it may be difficult to secure enough transportation and alternative sheltering. It will also put less stress on livestock by allowing them to stay in the habitat they are familiar with. However, you should be sure you are prepared for the worst conditions when sheltering in place as everyday resources such as feed, water, and fuel can become hard to obtain. You will want to be able to be independent from assistance, or if resources are not available (such as from road blockages) for at least 7 days. Check that all your daily maintenance supplies are in working order and together, such as wheel barrels and forks, tractors, and chain saws. You do not want to be scrambling for supplies in a time of disaster.

Monitor Conditions:

Stay up to date on the weather conditions and use this to evaluate and decide how to house animals. Pastures are usually the safest, as barns can collapse or flood waters can rise quickly and trap animals in stalls. Also look for large trees or power line poles that may fall on structures and fencing when deciding on sheltering plans. You should fill out your sheltering in place plan and include the location, number, gender, and any special instructions for where the animals are housed.

Supplies:

Take special precaution on the storage of supplies, as severe weather can ruin your resources.

Have enough feed and hay for at least 7 days and store in sealed containers or plastic bags. Try to store items as high off the ground as possible in case of flooding. Hay can be covered with plastic tarps but be sure to secure the tarp tightly. Also be sure that you have enough water stored for at least 7 days. You can use clean, large garbage cans or barrels, and cover with the lid. Do not rely on automatic waterers! Be sure you have extra fuel if you will need to run a generator, and a first aid kit for your horses.

Securing Facility:

Do a walk around the property and secure any loose items that may be blown around during high winds, or that may sustain damage if not undercover from rain water. Pick up any trash, and secure items that may blow over. If you have time, take care of any property maintenance, such as trimming branches, which may fall in a storm. Check that you have extra fuel for generators, and clean up equipment such as chainsaws. Put generators in place and check that they are operational.

Aftermath:

After the event has moved on and it is safe, check on all animals and property. You will need to evaluate each animal for injuries and signs of illness. It is also a good idea to wash animals in case there are harmful chemicals and residue left on the skin from flood waters (this can include anything from pesticide runoff of a farm or residence, to a chemical plank leak). You will also need to inspect property for damages to structures, fences, and anything that may be dangerous such as fallen power lines, hazardous objects such as tin that may have been blown around and into the pasture, and even dangerous wildlife.

Evacuation

Evasion:

Disasters can lead to unnecessary danger to those whom are unprepared and stay in its path. A prepared and timely evacuation can save time, monetary loss, and lives. This can be especially helpful when it involves large numbers of stock in which it may be difficult to secure enough transportation and alternative sheltering, especially in a last minute scenario. You should heed warnings from officials, and pay close attention to news forecast. The earlier you evacuate, the less hectic it will be, and the less stressed you and your animals will be from not having to do a hasty departure.

Distance to Safe Harbor:

Think about past disasters in your area such as flooding, hurricanes, tornados, or even just severe storms. Research for places far enough away to put you and your animals out of harm's way. Make contacts and establish relationships with out of area veterinarians, farriers, and boarding facilities from your chosen evacuation area, and let them know that you would like to use them in the event of a disaster. You will also need to research local feed stores for one that carries the brand of feed your horses eat, and for hay suppliers. Maintenance shops should also be located in case your trailer or vehicle has problems. Plan the route you will travel ahead of time, along with a back-up route, and have a map.

Gearing Up:

Have a list made up of everything you will need to care for your animal should you evacuate.

There is a sample list of an evacuation kit included in this book. You will also want a first aid kit for your horse. Pack up ahead of time whether you plan to evacuate or not. This will ensure you

are ready to go should conditions take a turn for the worse and you decide you must evacuate.

You will also want to take certain documents with you as well-

- Evacuation Plan
- Equine Profiles and registrations
- Any insurance papers for horses, vehicles, and trailers
- Any leasing contracts
- Immunization records/Coggins papers
- Inventory of supplies
- Road map

Secure Facilities:

Be sure to secure facilities and lock doors before you leave. You may also want to turn off the main water, gas, and electric breaker. Determine your route ahead of time, and leave as soon as possible to avoid traffic and bad weather (especially if hauling a trailer). Let neighbors know where you are going and leave contact information.

Aftermath:

Inspect and be sure that property is safe before returning with your animals. You may return to clean up without them or find a closer staging area to keep them while you clean up.

Identification

You should have records and identification for your horses for health, breeding, and show purposes. This helps with disease control, to show potential buyers, and in recovery, whether it be from theft or lost in a disaster. In an emergency, you may have to leave your horse with someone else or in a shelter, and properly kept records and identification will save time as these will need to be done. Your horse may also end up lost, escape an enclosure, or someone may just see it in distress when you are away and need to contact you. If you have properly identified your horse, then it will make it easier to know which animal someone is referring to, and to recover it. You should identify your horse multiple ways during an emergency, and have it written down with pictures taken. Multiple forms of identification will ensure that if one form is difficult to read or is lost, that the horse can still possibly be identified.

Permanent Identification:

You should have at least one form of permanent identification for your horse. Each form has its advantages and disadvantages. Permanent identification includes-

- Micro-chipping
- Branding
- Tattoos

Non-Permanent Identification:

You should also have a form of non-permanent identification. Non-permanent forms of identification are useful in emergency situations as they can provide a lot of information about the horse and owner, but they may also come off of the horse before you intend it to. Some examples of non-permanent forms of identification include-

- Tags(both engraved pet tags or tags you write on, such as luggage tags, that are taped to the halter or braided into the mane)
- Embroidered or engraved halters
- Embroidered or engraved collars
- Leg bands
- Waterproof paint/livestock marking crayon
- Clipping information into the horses fur by shaving it
- Writing on the hooves with a permanent marker
- Hoof branding

Be sure that anything attached to the horse is ‘break away’ safe so that the horse cannot become trapped if it snags on something.

Photo Identification and Proof of Ownership:

Photographs of your horse can be very useful for identification purposes and proof of ownership.

You should have at least five photos- a view from the front, the left side, the right side, the back, and one of the horse and owner. You may also want to have pictures of any special or unique markings, such as brands, scars, coat coloring, or tattoos. A ruler or measuring stick can be used in the picture to show the size of markings. Take pictures at a time in the day when the lighting is not too dark, and in an open area without obstructions to the view of the horse, such as tall grass that may hide markings on the lower limbs, to take the pictures. You may need to braid the mane and tail to show characteristic markings. Take photos tight with as little background as possible, and be sure to space legs apart to show markings.

Horse Preparation and Evaluation

Yearly Health Evaluations and Vaccinations:

There are a few things you should do before hand to be sure your horse is ready in a disaster.

First you should talk to your veterinarian and have your horse vaccinated and on a deworming schedule. Some recommended vaccinations are-

- Tetanus
- Rabies
- Rhinopneuonitis
- West Nile Virus
- Eastern and Western Equine Encephalomyelitis
- Influenza
- Potomic Horse Fever

Your veterinarian may recommend other vaccinations based on area out breaks. You will also want to have a coggins test done. This test for Equine Infectious Anemia and is required by some states, such as Louisiana.

Trailerling:

Practice trailerling your horse ahead of time! You do not want to be stuck in a time constrained, emergency situation with a horse that does not want to load. A horse hesitant to load will be stressed and so will you since you do not have time for schooling, which can lead to a bad experience for the horse and make it trailer shy. If you have planned ahead well enough, you should be able to calmly and efficiently evacuate. You may want to put protective shipping boots and head bumpers on horses before loading. When loading, start with the horses that are known to load well first, as this may encourage others to do the same. If you will be traveling several

hours, plan stops to let animals rest and get a drink. Take your time as to not rush and stress horses, or forget anything.

Before loading, inspect your trailer. It is a good practice to do an annual inspection of trailers, and to have a check list of things to inspect before hauling. Be sure that the tires, floors, and the structure in general are in proper condition. Also be sure that all hook-up lights and brakes are in working order, and that the vehicle that will be pulling the trailer is rated for the load. Check to be sure the hitch is secured before moving, and that registration and insurance papers are in the vehicle.

Evaluation:

After a storm, you should evaluate your horse for overall health from injuries and illnesses.

There is an Equine Health Evaluation sheet in this book that can be used. Things to look for are-

- Good body condition score
- Alert, inquisitive, and attentive to surroundings
- Not isolating self from herd
- Good hair coat- not dull, shiny, bright, cushy if winter coat
- Good eyes- bright, fully opened, clear, and free of discharge
- Hydration-pinch skin fold on neck or chest and it should have a 1/2-1 second snap back time
- Good manure/urine- firm manure, straw colored urine. Does not strain to pass
- Mucous membranes- gums/lips are a healthy pink(not pale, white, yellow, or purple)
- Capillary refill- Press thumb against gums and color should return within 1-2 seconds
- Heart rate of an adult at rest is between 32-48 beats per minute.(Foals will be faster ~70)

- Respiratory rate of an adult at rest is 8-16 breaths per minute (foals around 24). Also check that there is no nasal discharge or cough.
- Temperature should be between 99.5-101.5

Keep in mind that the heart rate and respiration can be affected by stress, heat, exercise, humidity, and excitement (horses may become excited and have a slightly higher rate just by someone entering the stall or being handled). Temperature can also be affected by high environmental temperatures, exercise, and dehydration.

Reunion and Recovery

One thing that many forget to plan for is a reunion of owners to animals, and to return home. If you are housing animals for others, have discharge procedures set up that include identifying the animal to the owner.

Owners will need to evaluate property and deem it safe before bringing animals home. Make a list of things that need to be done for recovery and prioritize it. If you find that your property has a substantial amount of damage, and you need to return to clean up, plan as to whether you will leave animals where they are, or find a place that may be a closer staging area till you have completed clean up that will allow you easier access to your animals.

You may also want to team up with neighbors in cleaning up and relocating animals. If animals are transported very far, you will want to plan stopping points not only for rest stops, but possibly as overnight stays. If someone else is hauling your animals for you, be sure they have the locations needed and know what animals they are picking up.

Contact Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Alternate Contact: _____

Alternate Contact Phone: _____

Boarding Facility: _____

Facility Address: _____

Barn Manager: _____

Manager Phone: _____

Veterinarian/Clinic: _____

Veterinarian Phone: _____

Clinic address: _____

Farrier: _____

Farrier Phone: _____

Names of horses: _____

Notes: _____

Emergency Numbers

Police Dept: _____

Fire Dept: _____

Animal Control: _____

State Animal Response Team: _____

State Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry: _____

State Vet Office: _____

Animal Poison Control: _____

Parish/County office of Emergency Preparedness: _____

Red Cross Chapter: _____

Gas Company: _____

Water Company: _____

Electric Company: _____

Others: _____

Map of Facility

Include locations of fire extinguishers, water sources, first aid, water/gas/utility shut offs, feed room, and places where animals are housed.

Equine Profile

Horse Name: _____ Breed: _____

Breed: _____

Color/Markings: _____

Permanent Identification: _____

Gender: _____ Birthday: _____

Height: _____ Weight: _____

Owner: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Address: _____

Alternate Contact: _____

Phone: _____

Veterinarian/Clinic: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Farrier: _____

Phone: _____

Diet: _____

Special Medical Needs: _____

Vices/Warnings: _____

Include photos of horse on reverse side- Include views of all sides, and one of owner and horse.

Sheltering in Place

Sheltering Location 1: _____

Shelter Type: _____

Number of Animals: _____

Type of Animals(species, gender): _____

Water and feed instructions: _____

Sheltering Location 2: _____

Shelter Type: _____

Number of Animals: _____

Type of Animals(species/gender): _____

Water and feed instructions: _____

Sheltering Location 3: _____

Shelter Type: _____

Number of Animals: _____

Type of Animals(species/gender): _____

Water and feed instructions: _____

Sheltering Location 4: _____

Shelter Type: _____

Number of Animals: _____

Type of Animals(species/gender): _____

Water and feed instructions: _____

Evacuation Plan

Evacuation Location 1: _____
Contact Person: _____
Phone: _____
Traveling time: _____
Address: _____
Boarding available(type/space): _____

Evacuation Location 2: _____
Contact Person: _____
Phone: _____
Traveling time: _____
Address: _____
Boarding available(type/space): _____

Evacuation Location 3: _____
Contact Person: _____
Phone: _____
Traveling time: _____
Address: _____
Boarding available(type/space): _____

Evacuation Location 4: _____
Contact Person: _____
Phone: _____
Traveling time: _____
Address: _____
Boarding available(type/space): _____

Vehicle and Trailer Check

Before hauling, be sure that you have inspected the vehicle that will be hauling the trailer, the trailer, and the connection. You should also have the following items-

- Insurance and registration for truck and trailer
- Roadside emergency kit- jumper cables, jack, lug wrench, flashlight, road flashers/cones
- Human first aid kit

Truck

- Rated for load
- Running lights
- Brake lights
- Blinkers
- Headlights
- Windshield wipers
- Emergency flashers
- Spare tire
- Oil
- Coolant
- Washer fluid
- Transmission fluid
- Brake fluid
- Belts
- Tire pressure/Condition
- Fuel level
- Braking
- Parking brake

Trailer

- Tire pressure/condition
- Spare tire
- Running lights
- Brake lights
- Blinker lights
- Brake box
- Emergency brake cable
- Floor condition
- Walls/Structure
- Door closures
- Block for disconnection
- Chalks
- Trailer lock

Hook-up

- Connection lock
- Safety Pin
- Brake away chains
- Emergency brake cable
- Power connection
- Running lights
- Brake lights
- Blinkers
- Brakes

Evacuation Area Resources

Location: _____

Local Veterinarian: _____

Phone: _____

Clinic address: _____

Local Feed/Supply Store: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Local Farrier: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Local Mechanic: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Local Hotel: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Notes: _____

Horse Locations

*Leave a copy of each horses profile with it at its boarding location.

Horse: _____ Identification: _____

Location: _____

Description: _____

Horse: _____ Identification: _____

Location: _____

Description: _____

Horse: _____ Identification: _____

Location: _____

Description: _____

Horse: _____ Identification: _____

Location: _____

Description: _____

Horse: _____ Identification: _____

Location: _____

Description: _____

Horse: _____ Identification: _____

Location: _____

Description: _____

Horse: _____ Identification: _____

Location: _____

Description: _____

Identification Tags

Tags can be placed into a luggage tag or zip-lock bag to be attached to horse for an emergency situation.

Horse: _____
Permanent ID: _____
Owner: _____
Phone: _____
Diet: _____

Horse: _____
Permanent ID: _____
Owner: _____
Phone: _____
Diet: _____

Horse: _____
Permanent ID: _____
Owner: _____
Phone: _____
Diet: _____

Horse: _____
Permanent ID: _____
Owner: _____
Phone: _____
Diet: _____

Horse: _____
Permanent ID: _____
Owner: _____
Phone: _____
Diet: _____

Horse: _____
Permanent ID: _____
Owner: _____
Phone: _____
Diet: _____

Equine Health Evaluation

Horse: _____

Owner: _____

Gender: _____ Birthday/Age: _____

Permanent ID: _____

Breed: _____

Color/Markings: _____

Diet: _____

Medications: _____

Person Evaluating: _____

Temperature: _____ (99.5-101.5) Pulse: _____ (32-48) Respiration: _____ (8-16)

Height: _____ Weight: _____ Body Condition Score: _____

Attitude: _____

Gut Sounds: _____

Lung Sounds/Respiratory: _____

Body Condition: _____

Capillary refill/Mucous Membranes/Hydration: _____

Hair Coat/Skin: _____

Hooves: _____

Eyes: _____

Ears: _____

Nose/Throat: _____

Manure/Urine: _____

Notes: _____

Treatment Permission Form

Horse: _____ Gender: _____

Identification: _____

Color/Markings: _____

Owner: _____ Phone: _____

Cell: _____

Address: _____

Alternate Contact with permission to make decisions: _____

Phone: _____

I would like for my horse to receive medical attention-

- For stabilization only
- For anything it may need
- I authorize that my horse may be euthanized if deemed necessary by a veterinarian
- I authorize that anyone may end the life of my horse to end suffering

I authorize up to the amount of \$ _____ to save the life of the horse.

Signature: _____

Evacuation Kit

Have an evacuation kit ready to go ahead of time and double check it before you leave. You will need to include everything you need to care for your pet.

- 7 day supply of feed/water
- Measuring scopes for feed
- Storage container for feed/water
- Hay bags
- Water hose
- Buckets/bucket hangers
- Trailer chocks
- Trailer hitch lock
- Flashlight/extra batteries
- Leather gloves
- Halters/lead ropes
- Fly Spray
- Hoof pick/ rasp/ nippers
- Grooming brushes
- Wash bucket/ soap/ sponge
- Knife
- Leg wraps/quilts
- Blanket
- Paper towels
- Plastic trash bags
- Duct tape
- Radio
- Fork
- Wheel barrow
- Shovel
- Twitch
- Wire cutters
- Emergency identification tags for each animal

First Aid Kit

You should have a first aid kit for your horse. You can buy one put together already, or put a custom one together yourself. Some items you may want to include are-

- Thermometer
- Stethoscope
- Watch or timer to track rates
- Wound spray
- Wonder dust®
- Bandages in multiple sizes(adhesive and non-stick)
- Adhesive tape
- Vet wrap
- Elasticon
- Cotton roll
- Leg wraps/quilts
- Antibacterial soap
- Disposable gloves
- Antibiotic ointment
- Eye ointment
- Antiseptic toweletts
- Bandage scissors
- Clippers
- Scrub solution
- Alcohol
- Ice packs
- Gauze
- Duct tape
- Knife
- Towels
- Tweezers
- Syringes and needles
- Sedative such as Xylazine® or Ace®

➤ Extra medication animal may be taking

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