



IN TEMPORARY HOUSING OR RETURNING HOME?

If you and your animals are in temporary housing or are able to return home, there are precautions you need to take for their continued welfare.

Unlike people, animals tend to hide their pain, making it difficult to detect. Check them over carefully and if you think they may have sustained internal burns or they look as though they are having difficulty breathing, contact your veterinarian immediately.

Remember if the water is not safe for you to drink, it is not safe for your animals. Make sure they have access to clean water – bottled or boiled water may be the only option.

Developing a routine is a helpful way to decrease anxiety. Try to keep meal times consistent. Try to be calm around your animals; they will pick up on your anxiety. Comfort each other if this is not distressing to your pet. Exercise them if it is safe to do so.

PETS

Following an emergency event, animals can show signs of stress in many different ways. Your pet may be anxious, fearful, aggressive, clingy, or they may not show signs of stress at all.

Providing your pet's usual bedding, and/or a piece of your clothing that smells like you, it may help reduce their anxiety level. Pheromone products are available for cats and dogs which may also help reduce anxiety. They come in spray bottles or as plug-in dispensers (which need electricity) and are available from veterinary clinics.

Lost pets

If you return to find animals missing contact the SPCA or your vet. You can also post the details on www.lostpet.co.nz.



LIVESTOCK

Make sure their accommodations are undamaged, or at least fit for purpose. The trees or shelter on your property may be damaged too, so check they are safe for animals to use or be near. Your animals will likely be stressed and more flighty than usual.

If you have had to leave your animals on your property, make sure to check them over carefully. Look at their hooves/pads/feet and udders in particular for injuries and if you think they may have sustained internal burns, or they look as though they are having difficulty breathing, contact your veterinarian immediately.

If the risk of fire returning is still present, or the fire risk is high, remove any flammable gear from your animals, especially those with polyester or metal components.

Feed & water

Make sure they have access to clean water – bottled or boiled water may be the only option. Priority feed the most vulnerable animals.

If the water is sourced from a roof, check and clean the roof and gutters of any ash or fire suppressant before using the water. You may need to empty the tank if roof water has already got into it.

Check any irrigation lines have not melted.

If you've had fire suppressant sprayed on the property, it is not toxic but it will taste unpleasant and shouldn't be eaten or drunk. You can wash it off surfaces with soapy water and a brush, followed by a clean water rinse. Any suppressant on the ground will soak into the ground when rinsed with a hose or rain, and will act as a fertiliser.