

# Emergency Preparedness for Equine Owners

## Protecting your horses during emergencies and out of hours situations

As an equine owner, it is important to have a plan in place for emergencies and out of hours situations. Whether it's a natural disaster, a health emergency, or an accident, being prepared can make all the difference in ensuring your horse's safety and wellbeing. To improve your preparedness for equine emergencies here's a list of steps you can take:

### **Create an emergency first aid kit**

Put together a kit containing essential items such as first aid supplies (bandages, dressings, antiseptics), stethoscope, thermometer, medications, and contact information for your veterinarian and other emergency services. Your kit should be easily accessible and stored in a waterproof container. Information on how to safely use first aid items on a horse can be found here - <https://aaep.org/issue/guidelines-equine-emergencies>

### **Have a plan**

Develop a plan for how you will evacuate your horse in case of an emergency. This plan should include routes, transportation options, veterinary out of hour services, and arrangements for temporary housing. It's important to practice this plan with your horse to ensure that they will remain calm and cooperative during an emergency situation.

### **Know your veterinarian's availability**

It's important to be aware that out of hours veterinary services may not be available in your area. Make sure you know your veterinarians hours and emergency contact information. In case of an emergency, you should also have a backup plan for contacting a different veterinarian or equine veterinary hospital if your vet is unavailable.

### **Horse transport**

As part of your preparedness all horse owners should have or have access to a float to transport your horse to a local veterinarian or 24-hour equine veterinary hospitals in Sydney.

### **Stay informed**

Stay informed about local weather conditions and any potential threats to your area. Keep up to date with news and alerts from local authorities and emergency services.

### **Consider microchipping**

Microchipping your horse can help to increase the chances of them being reunited with you in case they become lost during an emergency. Make sure that your horse's microchip information is up to date, including your current contact information and emergency contacts.

### **Maintain Proper Insurance Coverage**

Make sure that you have proper insurance coverage for your horse and any potential damages or losses during an emergency. This can help to provide peace of mind and financial protection in case of an emergency.

**By taking these steps, you can ensure that your horse is well-protected and cared for in any emergency situation. Remember, being prepared is the best way to minimise the risks and ensure the safety of your horse.**

## Equine Owners Responsibilities and Tips

Equestrian activities have never been more popular in the ACT region. We all love our horses and want to ensure we have the best veterinary care for them when needed. It is important equine owners have a plan, particular if seeking veterinary services on weekends and out of hours.

Horse owners need to act early and contact their veterinarian if they are concerned about the animal's health or wellbeing. If you notice something in the morning, don't wait till things escalate to contact your veterinarian as you may find the veterinary practice is closed and limited equine veterinary services available. Please contact your veterinarian to find out what out of hour services are available for you.

Equine veterinarians are dedicated to the health and welfare of horses but may not be immediately available to assist you as they may already be attending to another call-out or priority emergency. Please be understanding towards your vet as they try their best to assist you.

## Veterinary Out Of Hours (OOH) Services

In the ACT region, out-of-hours equine veterinary services may not be available, so it's especially important to be prepared. You should plan ahead by knowing your veterinarian's availability and having a backup plan in case of emergencies.

## Section for ACT veterinary practices to include their contact info and OOH details/arrangements.

**Veterinary Practice Name:**

**Address:**

**Phone Number:**

**Email:**

**Practice Hours:**

**OOH Arrangements:**

**If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.**