



Department of  
Primary Industries



**SES**  
STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE

## Media Release

1 February 2012

### Remember your animals in a storm or flood

As heavy rain and flooding continues to affect parts of New South Wales, livestock and pet owners are being reminded to consider their animals when making their emergency plans for floods and storms.

The NSW State Emergency Service (NSW SES) has joined forces with the NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) and the RSPCA to help people understand the importance of looking after their pets and livestock, particularly during severe weather.

Recent flooding in many parts of NSW has affected several communities and some instances animals have been caught up in the floods.

“The SES has been involved in eight flood rescues in the past two months where animals have been trapped by floodwater,” NSW SES Commissioner, Murray Kear said. “Owners need to make arrangements for their livestock, pets and agisted animals before weather warnings are issued as there is often not a lot of time to act when the rain falls and the rivers rise.”

“Careful planning before a flood can minimise impacts on livestock and domestic animals,” NSW DPI Emergency Preparedness & Response Manager, Suzanne Robinson said. “Farmers should ensure livestock are moved to higher ground and prepare for periods of isolation by ensuring adequate feed for stock and domestic animals is on hand.”

Storms can also pose a risk to pets and livestock with strong winds, heavy rain, hail and loud thunder. RSPCA NSW Chief Inspector, David O’Shannessy said pet owners should take extra precautions to ensure animals are safe and unharmed.

“Many animals suffer from noise phobias and thunderstorms can frighten animals causing them to escape their homes in fear and injure themselves in the process,” said Inspector O’Shannessy. “Pet owners should ensure animals are contained in a safe, secure environment and have access to proper shelter.”

“Planning ahead is critical, and we urge people to include their animals when preparing their emergency plan,” he added.

Now is the time for residents to prepare a [home emergency kit](#) which can be used if there is loss of power or evacuation is necessary during a storm or flood. Pet food and medications should be included in this kit as well as emergency plans that include pets and relocation of livestock if the need to leave arises.



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For more safety information go to:

<http://www.ses.nsw.gov.au/community-safety/>

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/emergency/flood>

[http://www.rspcansw.org.au/services/inspectorate/floods\\_bushfires\\_and\\_emergencies](http://www.rspcansw.org.au/services/inspectorate/floods_bushfires_and_emergencies)

For emergency help in a flood or storm call the SES on 132 500.

For more information or interviews please contact:

NSW SES media: 02 4225 7500

NSW DPI media: 6391 3686 or 0427 192 658

RSPCA media: 9782 4457 or 0413 622 020