

# Recovering and protecting animals after a natural disaster

As conditions begin to clear and people begin returning to their homes after a flood, it is important for pet and livestock owners to remain alert for any potential risks for themselves and their pets and livestock.

Follow these tips to support your pets and livestock immediately after a natural disaster:

- If you return to your home after a disaster and your pets or animals are injured or sick, they should be given veterinary treatment as soon as possible.
- Be aware of water sources such as floodwaters, ponds and puddles that may be contaminated. Do not allow your pets to play in these or drink from them and monitor them closely.
- Assess your property for debris and other hazards before moving your pets back in. Never let pets explore debris as they can suffer lacerations or contract diseases. Contact your local council if you are unsure about or unable to remove any hazards you identify.
- Keep your pets contained in your home for a few days, as a flood can wash away familiar smells and introduce some new ones. It can also displace wildlife. After the flood, keep your dog on a lead when you go outside to prevent confusion and ensure they don't chase any wildlife.
- Ensure your animals have access to clean water, food and shelter.
- Remember that you comfort your pet as much as they comfort you in stressful times. Be patient with your pets after a disaster and do your best to stay together when you return home after an evacuation.

## Deceased animals

Dead animals should be disposed of by burial or cremation on rural properties. For other disposal options, contact your local council.

## Injured wildlife

Before rescuing injured wildlife you need to make sure you are in a position to assist appropriately.

To report injured wildlife, contact [Wildcare NT](#) on 0408 885 341.

## Displaced animals

Lost animals should be returned to their property of origin as soon as practical. Livestock that are found to be injured must be provided with appropriate treatment and care.

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You can contact your local council or Vet to report lost or injured animals. You can find information about your local council here - [Find your council | NT.GOV.AU](#)

All animals in the Northern Territory are entitled to a standard level of care for their welfare, health and safety under the [Animal Protection Act 2018](#) and [Animal Protection Regulations 2022](#).