

Animal Welfare



Animals and Feed

If you are concerned about the welfare of injured, lost or stranded animals, you can contact the Shire on 9848 0300. Shire staff will put you in touch with agencies and vets who can help.

Feed for livestock?

We have started an Animal feed register for all donations of feed for livestock and also for all people that are in need of feed for their livestock.

For more information to be added to the register please contact our Community Development Officer Rosie Arnephie on 9848 0300 or rosemarie.arnephie@denmark.wa.gov.au

Managing Food and Water

The most important consideration in the short-term is to ensure your animals have access to safe drinking water and a reliable food source.

- Do not allow animals to drink water that is stagnant as it could contain high levels of bacteria, ash, debris or other dangerous contaminants;
- Dispose of contaminated water and replenish with fresh drinking water. Information about treating contaminated farm dams can be found on the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development website;
- Ensure livestock has access to good quality feed and/or suitable pasture; and
- Ration any existing unspoilt feed until new feed can be accessed. Be cautious of food items stored in refrigeration, as power supplies may have been interrupted and food spoiled.

For more information visit the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development: www.agric.wa.gov.au/animalwelfare

Getting ready to bring your animals home

Before you return home, it helps to think ahead about what the physical environment might look and feel like when you return home. You will need to check the environment's suitability for your animals, which includes:

- Assessing food supply;
- Checking for water contamination;
- Removing debris; and
- Checking fences

When safe to do so, assess animals for illness or injury sustained during the fire. Initially, monitor animals at least daily to ensure they are eating properly, have not sustained further injuries and are settling in. Monitor animals for signs of after effects – smoke inhalation and burns can manifest symptoms days after the fire.

Bringing animals home

The first time you return home, return without animals that have been evacuated so that damage can be assessed and the property can be prepared for their return.

Ensure the ground has completely cooled before returning animals to paddocks. After a natural disaster the environment will have changed and as a result, animals may become disorientated, frightened, and aggressive during this time. Take care when releasing them.

Monitor animals at least daily to ensure they are eating properly, have not sustained further injuries and are settling in. Also, watch for signs of smoke inhalation and burns. Symptoms can manifest for some time after a fire.

Injured Wildlife

The Wildcare Helpline provides a service for the public who find **sick or injured native wildlife** and are seeking **advice on where to find care** for the animal – 9474 9055

Further information

Visit the DFES website - <https://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/site/bushfire/recovery.html#livestock>

For more information, please contact Ranger Services at the Shire of Denmark on 9848 0300.