

# Fire emergency information for animal owners and carers

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*Animal owners and carers are responsible for planning and providing for the needs of their pets, companion animals and/or horses in their care during and after emergencies.*

## How to find a lost pet (Council, Animal Welfare Victoria)

If your pets are lost after an emergency, notify your local council, microchip registry, neighbours and nearby animal shelters. You can also check social media sources (often in emergencies a site is set up to list lost and found animals).

For further information call 136 186 or visit <http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/emergencies/pets-in-emergencies> or contact your local council.

## How to support your animals if they are affected by smoke

Smoke inhalation in pets can be dangerous to their health and may take several weeks to notice. Signs of smoke inhalation may include inflammation to their airways, coughing, increased rate or difficulty in breathing.

Ash and soot from fires may harm your animals, especially if they try to groom themselves. If your animals are affected, wash them as you normally would with mild detergents to remove anything covering their fur or feathers.

Further Information call 136 186

Or visit <http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/pets/care-and-welfare/pets-and-emergencies/pets-and-smoke/care-of-pets-exposed-to-smoke-and-ash>

## Assessing horses after bushfires

Care must be taken to assess whether a recently burnt area is suitable for horses to re-enter. As soon as it is safe check your horses for burns, smoke inhalation symptoms and other injuries to see whether veterinary attention is required. It is important that horses are regularly rechecked after the initial assessment to ensure that symptoms that arise a few days or weeks after the fire are adequately treated and the physical environment changed by the fire continues to meet the horses needs.

Contact your vet immediately if you observe lameness, symptoms of colic, temperatures, burns around the eyes, temperatures, reduced lung function or any other symptoms of concern.

For more information, visit <http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/emergencies/recovery/livestock-after-an-emergency/horses-affected-by-bushfires/>

Or call 136 186

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