



Disaster Preparedness for your HORSE

Are you prepared to take care of your horse when a disaster strikes? If not, NOW is the time to stock up on the items that you will need so that you will not get caught unprepared. Listed below is a handy shopping list for you to use. The next time you buy food or supplies for your horse, take this list with you. Don't put off doing what you should do now – it may just make the difference in being able to keep your horse alive when a disaster strikes.

SHOPPING FOR YOUR HORSE

Here are the supplies that you should have in a Disaster Kit for horses. Adjust the amounts, depending on the number of horses.

1. FOOD:

- Always have a reserve supply of hay and whatever else you feed your horse that would last two weeks.
 - Have an extra supply of feed buckets or troughs in case you have to evacuate your horse during the pre-disaster or Evacuation Alert time and you have to take your supplies with you to your horse's evacuation destination.
 - Store food in an airtight, waterproof container and clearly mark all your containers with large lettering with your personal info.
 - Rotate food at least once every three (3) months.
 - Include with your disaster supplies, an extra feeding dish, just in case the one normally used is lost.
 - Include with your disaster supplies a knife in case you have to cut bale twine or open bags. Also, include a spoon and extra bucket for mixing up special concoctions that your horse may be used to.
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2. WATER:

- Because horses will drink between 5 and 15 gallons of water a day, be sure to always have a supply to last at least (3) days, per horse.
 - If you do not have the capacity to store large quantities of water, then be sure you have enough large, clean garbage cans to haul water to your horse(s).
 - Store water in a cool, dark location, and be sure to rotate it so it remains fresh.
 - Remember that if the tap water is not suitable for humans to drink, it is also not suitable for animals to drink.
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3. CLEANING SUPPLIES:

- Have at least one week's shavings or straw available at all times designated for disaster use only. It is important to keep your horse's stall or quarters clean following a disaster. Filthy surroundings added to any injuries the horse has sustained can cause medical problems to develop.
 - If you know where your horse's evacuation destination is, you may not require a wheelbarrow and pitchfork. ALERT centres will have these supplies available but chances are your horse will be billeted to a pre-screened stable.
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4. IDENTIFICATION / HALTERS:

- We strongly recommend microchipping your horse. This is a permanent way in which to be able to always positively identify your horse. Keep a copy of the microchip registration and phone number in your kit.
 - We also recommend tattooing. It is usually done inside the horse's upper lip. If you need temporary ID on a horse, HCBC (Horse Council BC) has them, or you can spray paint your driver's license on the horse or weave a strand of wool into the horse's mane and tag with your name, permanent address, temporary address and phone numbers on it. Use permanent ink and write your name, address and phone numbers on all halters, bridles, and saddles in case your horse as any of these on him when he/she is separated from you.
 - Familiarize yourself with the ALERT team in your area. They will provide you with information on evacuation destinations, horse registration, etc.
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5. PICTURES:

- You should have in your disaster kit, some current photos of your horse to use in case your horse is lost during the disaster. Include yourself in some of the photos so you can prove ownership.
- Keep these photos and a copy of each Bill of Sale for each horse in your kit.

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6. **FIRST AID KIT:**
- _____ Check with your vet to find out what is recommended to be included in YOUR Kit for YOUR horse.
 - _____ Keep your First Aid book for horses in your disaster kit.
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7. **MEDICATIONS:**
- _____ If your horse is on medication, be sure to keep a reserve supply in your kit, along with directions on how to administer. Be sure the medication does not expire and keep it rotated.
 - _____ Have enough medication to last at least two weeks.
 - _____ Keep a copy of your horse's file with vaccine and deworming history in your kit.
 - _____ Always be sure your horse is up-to-date with tetanus vaccinations since in a disaster there can be a lot of sharp debris laying on the ground.
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8. **VET INFO:**
- _____ Write on a piece of paper or card, the name, address and phone number of your regular horse vet and your regular farrier and keep this info in your kit.
 - _____ If you do not routinely use a mobile equine vet, locate one in your area to use during a disaster in case your horse is too badly injured to be moved.
 - _____ It is important to write out a release form authorizing another party to get emergency medical treatment for your injured horse in case you are not available to give approval during a disaster. Keep this on file with your current and alternate veterinarian as well as with ALERT.
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9. **HORSE TRAILERS:**
- _____ If you have a horse, you should have a horse trailer. If you do not, make sure you have an arrangement with someone who does during a disaster.
 - _____ Familiarize yourself with the disaster animal response team in your area and notify them at pre-disaster or Evacuation Alert time if you need help evacuating your horse.
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REMEMBER:

- Do not feed horses any food that has become wet or contaminated in any other way. Moldy hay can cause a number of serious illnesses. Have your horses learn to eat/drink from several different types of buckets.
 - Horses should eat at least twice a day, in the morning and at night, so continue to maintain this schedule as best you can, or arrange with ALERT to stick to the same schedule, if possible.
 - Try to avoid abrupt changes in the kind or amount of food you feed.
 - The water in swimming pools can be used for drinking as long as it does not have algae growing on it (pool water should only be used for drinking water during an emergency).
 - Check with the disaster animal response team for water distribution centres in your community during a disaster. If you are going to make use of rivers and streams, make sure the water is drinkable.
 - It is important to give water to a horse before you offer food. This allows the horse to get the most nutritional value out of their food, which is important when the horse has become stressed during a disaster.
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If you would like more information about being prepared during a disaster, or becoming a trained disaster Volunteer for animals, or if you want someone to speak to a group regarding the Animal Lifeline Emergency Response Team, please contact:

Animal Lifeline Emergency Response Team (ALERT)

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