



How to Build an Animal Ready Community (ARC)

Why build an Animal Ready Community?

Establishing an *Animal Ready Community* (ARC) to plan, prepare and support each other, helps build resilience and keep people and their animals safe during natural disasters and other emergencies.

After the 2013 Blue Mountains bushfires, which saw a huge loss of pets and animals, a group of passionate, community focussed people banded together to build the first ARC, known as *Blue ARC*. You can learn more through the group through the [Blue ARC Facebook](#) page and learn more about their work through an article [here](#)

Building an ARC can be simple to set up. Here are some tips:

1. Identify members who can help build and maintain your ARC database

ARC information can be captured in a database, using an excel spreadsheet, or a software platform such as *Airtable*.

Information should be easily accessible by ARC members in an emergency. Personal information should always be secured and permission by the provider given before it is shared.

2. Identify your ARC audience and send out communications seeking interest to join

ARCs can be established in local communities, through breed clubs, associations, rescue groups or among friends.

A simple Facebook post or email can start your ARC rolling...

We are building an ARC (Animal Ready Community) to support each other during emergencies. This support may be in the form of sharing resources, borrowing equipment, helping with transport, etc. To learn more and join our database, please contact: <insert contact person's name and details>

You can include the information you are seeking for your ARC database, such as:

- Name and Contact Details
- Locality/Suburb
- Transport available eg. dog trailer, horse float, truck, car, van etc
- Equipment available eg. crates, carriers, cages, feed, fodder etc
- Emergency accommodation and boarding assistance
- Other ways to help



For the latest information during emergencies go to:
NSW Department of Primary Industries www.dpi.nsw.gov.au /NSWDPI
NSW State Emergency Service (floods, storms, tsunami) www.ses.nsw.gov.au /NSW.SES
NSW Rural Fire Service (bushfires) www.rfs.nsw.gov.au /nswrfs
Fire + Rescue NSW www.fire.nsw.gov.au /frnsw
NSW Police www.police.nsw.gov.au /nswpoliceforce
For life threatening emergencies dial 000 (triple zero)

www.getreadyanimals.nsw.gov.au



GET READY
Animals



3. Pre-arrange access to relocation facilities

Part of building your ARC may include pre-arranging access with other locations or facilities out of the emergency impact area.

This will allow animals to be safely relocated early and cared for by ARC members. Capture 24/7 contact details and access arrangements as part of your ARC plan.



4. Keep your ARC active through education and exercising

Keeping your ARC floating is important. Test that it works – don't wait for an emergency to find the icebergs. Run a 'fire or flood drill', discuss the good and bad points and make any needed changes. Keep communicating! It could be through a monthly newsletter, or having a Facebook page, or an email list sharing simple reminders the ARC is still active and to check details, encourage new members, tips to find information or events to build relationships.

You can promote your ARC and encourage other animal-based groups to build their own ARC. Having ARCs in different locations strengthens the support able to be provided during emergencies.

5. Resources to help your ARC

The [Get Ready Animals website](http://www.getreadyanimals.nsw.gov.au) at www.getreadyanimals.nsw.gov.au is a great site to find resources to help you educate the community.

You may want to use them at meetings, in newsletters, to organise community displays and other engagement activities.

You can promote and share resources from the site including:

- [Animal Emergency Plan on a Page](#)
- [Emergency Grab and Go Bag for Pets Poster](#)
- [Pet Safety in Emergencies](#)
- [Keeping Your Animals Safe in an Emergency](#)

The fact sheet [Planning an Animals in Emergencies Display](#) is another helpful resource.

Plus there are videos in the **Educational Resources** section of the website, and a range of tiles in the **Social Media Resources to Share** section that can be used on Facebook and Instagram.

What I will do with my animals during an Emergency

Always start to plan with your pets in mind. It's better to be prepared than to be in a panic. This form will help you think through the steps you need to take to keep your animals safe during an emergency.

STEP 1: What I will do with my animals during an emergency

Identify the animals in your household and make a list of them. You may not be able to take them to a shelter. Think about how you can keep them safe at home. Do you have a plan for each animal? Do you have a plan for each animal?

STEP 2: How I will contact and transport my animals

Identify the animals in your household and make a list of them. You may not be able to take them to a shelter. Think about how you can keep them safe at home. Do you have a plan for each animal? Do you have a plan for each animal?

STEP 3: What I will do with my animals during an emergency

Identify the animals in your household and make a list of them. You may not be able to take them to a shelter. Think about how you can keep them safe at home. Do you have a plan for each animal? Do you have a plan for each animal?

STEP 4: How I will contact and transport my animals

Identify the animals in your household and make a list of them. You may not be able to take them to a shelter. Think about how you can keep them safe at home. Do you have a plan for each animal? Do you have a plan for each animal?



Thanks for planning for animals in emergencies through promoting preparedness and building resilience in your community.

For the latest information during emergencies go to:
 NSW Department of Primary Industries www.dpi.nsw.gov.au /NSWDPI
 NSW State Emergency Service (floods, storms, tsunami) www.ses.nsw.gov.au /NSW.SES
 NSW Rural Fire Service (bushfires) www.rfs.nsw.gov.au /nswrfs
 Fire + Rescue NSW www.fire.nsw.gov.au /frnsw
 NSW Police www.police.nsw.gov.au /nswpoliceforce
 For life threatening emergencies dial 000 (triple zero)

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