



Bale's Farm & Bale's Buddies Therapy Dogs Community Outreach Emergency Plan Policy for Animal Protection

Review Due: 01/09/25

Location: Bales Farm, Dacombe, Newton Abbot, England, TQ12 4ST

Purpose:

This emergency plan outlines the procedures for protecting the animals at Bales Farm in the event of an emergency such as extreme weather, flooding, fire, or any other potential hazard that could threaten the safety and welfare of the animals. This plan ensures the health and safety of horses, pigs, chickens, ducks, rabbits, guinea pigs, therapy dogs, and cats housed at Bales Farm.

1. Risk Assessment

Due to the varied landscape and proximity to a stream and pond, Bales Farm faces specific risks:

- **Flooding:** The stream and pond pose a flood risk to lower fields.
- **Strong Winds/Storms:** The farm's exposed location makes it vulnerable to high winds, which may cause structural damage or harm to animals.
- **Fire:** Risk from stables and animal housing, particularly in dry weather or from electrical faults.
- **Extreme Heat/Cold:** Risks include dehydration or frostbite, especially for smaller or more sensitive animals.

2. Weather Monitoring and Warnings

Bales Farm management must continuously monitor weather warnings issued by the Met Office and other local authorities. Alerts such as wind warnings, storm warnings, or flood risks should be carefully evaluated to ensure proactive steps are taken.

Actions on Weather Warnings:

- **Yellow/Amber Warnings:** Assess the situation and prepare evacuation protocols. Close the farm school early, send children and non-essential staff home, and prepare emergency supplies for animals.
- **Red Warnings:** Activate full emergency protocols, potentially evacuate animals from vulnerable areas, and close the farm completely.

3. Emergency Roles and Responsibilities

- **Farm Manager/Director:** Responsible for overall decision-making, communication with staff, and ensuring the emergency plan is activated when needed.
- **Animal Care Team:** Responsible for the safe relocation and care of all animals during an emergency. Familiarise themselves with the evacuation procedures and know the location of emergency supplies.
- **All Staff:** Assist in animal movement and protection, communicate effectively with management, and evacuate safely when instructed.

4. Evacuation Protocol

4.1 Flooding Response

- **Fields near River/Pond:** In case of flood warnings, animals in these fields should be relocated to higher ground as early as possible. These include:
- **Pigs, Ducks, Chickens, Guinea Pigs:** Move them to secure indoor housing or higher fields immediately.
- **Horses:** Lead horses to higher stables or fields further from the river.
- **Smaller Animals (Rabbits, Guinea Pigs):** Move to indoor or elevated cages immediately.

Supplies to Prepare:

- Portable carriers for small animals.
- Emergency feed, water, and bedding stored on higher ground or in stables.
- Water pumps or sandbags to divert water away from animal shelters if possible.

4.2 Strong Wind and Storm Response

- **Stables and Sheds:** Check the integrity of structures ahead of storms. Reinforce doors and windows if necessary.
- **Outdoor Animals:** All outdoor animals must be moved to indoor shelters. Horses and pigs should be brought into stable areas. Smaller animals, such as chickens, ducks, rabbits, and guinea pigs, should be placed in safe, sheltered enclosures.
- **Debris Check:** Clear fields of any loose objects or debris that could become projectiles in strong winds.
- **Therapy Dogs and Cats:** Keep indoors in secure, quiet rooms with access to water.

4.3 Fire Response

- **Immediate Evacuation:** In case of fire, all animals must be moved away from stables and structures toward open fields or designated safety zones.

- Safe Zones: Pre-designate specific areas on the farm where animals can be safely housed during a fire.
- Fire Equipment: Ensure fire extinguishers and hoses are placed near stables and shelters.
- Evacuation Points: Have transport vehicles arranged for the horses and other large animals.

5. Emergency Shelter Locations

- Stables: Primary shelter for horses and pigs during high winds or storms.
- Stables/Sheltered enclosures: Safe housing for chickens, ducks, rabbits, guinea pigs, cats, and small animals.
- Higher Fields: In case of floods, animals should be relocated to higher ground to avoid rising water levels.

Normans House: Indoor shelter for therapy dogs and cats during high winds or storms.

6. Animal Care During Emergencies

- Ensure that all animals have access to sufficient food and water, and that indoor shelters are well-ventilated and secure.
- During cold weather, ensure animals are adequately insulated from frost and wind.
- Check animals regularly for signs of distress, injury, or illness during prolonged emergency situations.

7. Emergency Supplies

Keep the following supplies readily accessible in the event of an emergency:

- Animal carriers and harnesses for each type of animal, including crates for dogs, cats, and small animals.
- Emergency feed and water stored in waterproof containers at multiple locations around the farm.
- First aid kits for animals, including bandages, antiseptic solutions, and medications for common injuries or conditions.

Generators or alternative power sources to provide lighting, heating, and water pumps in case of power outages.

8. Communication and Reporting

- Internal Communication: All staff must have access to communication devices (walkie-talkies or mobile phones) to remain in contact during emergencies.
- External Communication: Designate a spokesperson to communicate with emergency services, authorities, and local community members.

- **Post-Emergency Report:** After the emergency, document any injuries or damages, and perform a thorough assessment of the farm's infrastructure and animal health.

9. Staff Training and Drills

- Conduct regular staff training sessions on emergency response, animal handling during evacuations, and fire safety protocols.
- Hold at least one emergency drills per year to ensure that all staff are familiar with the procedures.

10. Review and Update Policy

This emergency plan must be reviewed annually, and after any emergency event, to identify potential improvements or necessary changes.

By implementing this emergency plan, Bales Farm ensures the safety and protection of its animals during extreme weather events and other potential emergencies.

