

Section 2: Making an emergency plan

- Evacuating your property
- Taking care of animals
- Emergency survival kit
- Transporting animals
- Shelter at home
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- Practise your plan

Make a plan to stay safe

Winging it in an emergency won't help you or your whānau. Time is of the essence, so if you have a solid plan already in place, and know what to do, you have a better chance of getting through it and recovering faster.

In an emergency event you'll have to take swift and effective action in case you have to:

- evacuate your property
- take care of animals
- shelter in place for several days if it's safe to do so, or
- shelter elsewhere if it's not safe to stay at home. You might not be home when an emergency happens and unable to access your property for several days.

Putting your plan together

Evacuating your property

Evacuate immediately if told to do so by emergency services or Hawke's Bay Emergency Management. You'll only be asked to do this when there is a real risk to life, so please leave immediately.

Having a getaway kit ready and waiting is a major part of being prepared. While you might not have all these items in one place, it's important you know where to find them for quick access.

What to put in your getaway kit

- Cash and personal identification.
- Key documents like insurance policies, birth certificates, pet vaccination books.
- Torch and radio with spare batteries.
- Emergency water and easy-to-carry food rations like energy bars and dried foods. If you have any special dietary requirements, make sure you have extra supplies.
- First aid kit, including prescription medications and anything else you might need like dentures, eyeglasses, hearing aids and extra batteries, and mobility aids.
- Essential items for infants or young children like formula and food, nappies and a favourite toy.
- Change of clothes - wind/waterproof clothing and strong outdoor shoes.
- Toiletries – towel, soap, toothbrush, sanitary items, toilet paper.
- Blankets or sleeping bags.
- Face and dust masks.
- Car keys and house keys.

Taking care of animals

As an animal owner you have certain legal responsibilities.

The Animal Welfare Act 1999 states that **you, the animal owner, or person in charge of the animal, must take all reasonable steps to ensure the animal's physical, health and behavioural needs are met.** This 'duty of care' applies under all circumstances including during and following an emergency.



Your animals are your responsibility, so you need to include them in your emergency planning. Check out mpi.govt.nz/getpetsthru for checklists and emergency plan guides to help you plan for all your animals.

Think about the best way to evacuate your animals including transportation to a safe place and plenty of provisions like food and water. Also make plans for someone to care for your animals if you can't get home.

With a well thought out plan you'll be prepared to evacuate fast or stay put with sufficient supplies when a disaster strikes – and avoid putting your life and others at risk.

Pets

Make sure your pets are microchipped and your dogs are **registered** and wearing their current registration tag. Also check your animal ID is current and your personal details are up to date on relevant microchip databases. Go to animalregister.co.nz for more info.

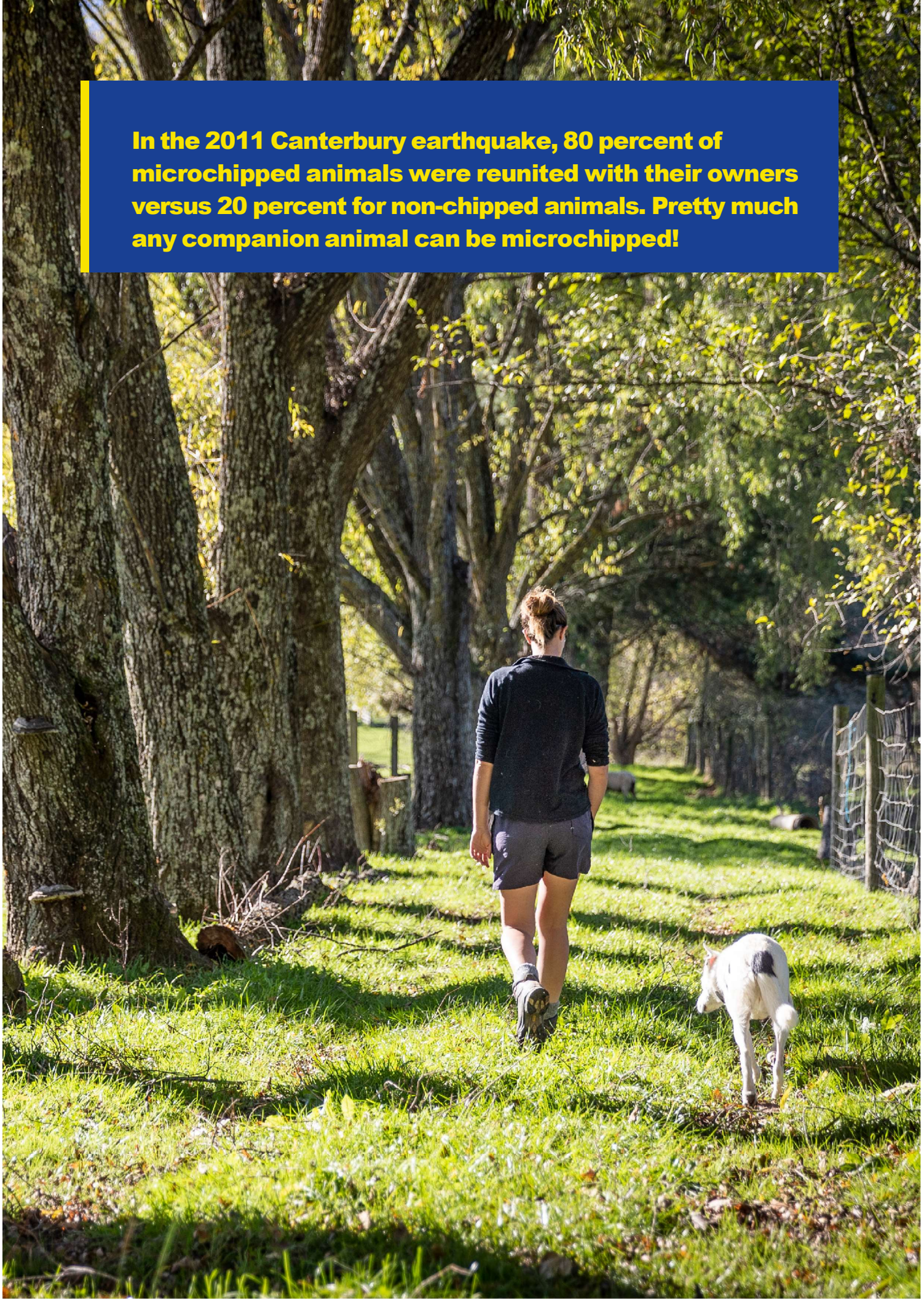


Livestock

Ensure your **National Animal Identification and Tracing system (NAIT)** details are up to date. Go to <https://mpi.govt.nz/animals/national-animal-identification-tracing-nait-programme> for more info.



In the 2011 Canterbury earthquake, 80 percent of microchipped animals were reunited with their owners versus 20 percent for non-chipped animals. Pretty much any companion animal can be microchipped!



Emergency survival items

Store a copy of all documentation in your getaway kit.

- Add an ID tag to your pet's collar or for large animals, like horses, to their halter, lead and cover. Make sure the tag clearly shows their name, your name, phone number and (if space) your address. Include a backup in your emergency survival kit.
- Store a current photograph of your pets and horses in a waterproof container, including notes on any distinguishing features, name, sex, age, colour and breed. Also include a photograph of you and your animals together to help prove ownership if you get separated.
- Store copies of any medical and vaccination records in a waterproof container. Include your vet's name and phone number, in case you have to move your large animals to another property, boarding, or place your pets in foster care.
- Follow this QR code for a free printable wallet card:



TIP: Save all your important information online for easy access from wherever you are.



■ **In an emergency**

- call 111

■ **If your animals are affected in an emergency**

- Local Council: _____
- MPI: 0800 00 83 33

■ **Further information**

■ **For further information and details about animal welfare in emergencies visit**

- email awem@mpi.govt.nz
- www.mpi.govt.nz/getpetsthru
- Phone: 0800 00 83 33

■ **NZ Companion Animal Register**

- www.animalregister.co.nz

■ **Lost your pet? Go here:**

- www.lostpet.co.nz

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New Zealand Government

**Animals in
Emergencies**

**MY ANIMALS
ARE
HOME ALONE**

If I am sick or injured in an emergency situation, please contact the person on this card

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatu Ahu Matua



■ **In case of an emergency please contact:**

NAME:

MOBILE:

■ **Animals at home**

ANIMAL NAME:

SPECIES/BREED/DESCRIPTION:

MICROCHIP/IDENTIFICATION:

ANIMAL NAME:

SPECIES/BREED/DESCRIPTION:

MICROCHIP/IDENTIFICATION:

Transporting your animals to a safe, secure place

Lead/halter/harness/muzzle

Know where these things are as well as any other equipment that will help you move your pets and animals, particularly horses, in an emergency evacuation. Make sure the device is sturdy and has an ID tag attached. Dogs may need to be muzzled. Even if your dog is friendly, emergency personnel may refuse to handle them unless they're restrained.

Cage/carrier

You'll need these for safe transportation and to prevent your animals, particularly pets, from escaping. The cage or carrier should be sturdy, e.g. made from metal or plastic, not cardboard, which might disintegrate if it gets wet. The cage or carrier should be large enough for animals to comfortably stand in, turn around, lie down and have adequate ventilation. Your pet may have to stay in there for some time so include bedding, blankets and a favourite toy to reduce stress levels.



Float

Floats are the safest form of transportation for horses and will ensure they can't escape. Keep in mind the horse may need to stay in the float for some time.

Flammable gear

On high-risk fire days, remove flammable gear such as rugs, harnesses, halters and fly veils, as well as anything that contains metal. Most rugs are a polyester/cotton blend and if they catch fire will melt onto the animal's skin.

Only take your animals with you if it won't delay you. Don't spend time looking for them and do not return to get them if you're not at home. When planning, consider the time needed to collect and transport your animals or the time needed to move them to a safe place to shelter.

If time allows, move your animals to a safe place that's easily accessible in case they need assistance, supplementary feed or veterinary treatment. Discuss your evacuation plan with your neighbours as they might be able to help if you're unable to access or return to your animals.

If you don't have the time to move your animals, open gates to allow them to move to higher ground if needed. This is particularly important if your property is at risk of flooding.

When you're evacuating, use travel routes specified by local authorities. Some areas might be impassable or dangerous, so avoid shortcuts and do not drive through floodwater. If you come across a barrier, follow posted detour signs.

Euthanising animals

Sometimes, no matter how well you've planned and prepared, the unexpected will happen, and you'll be faced with having to humanely kill (euthanise) one or more of your animals. Ideally, this should be done by a trained professional like a veterinarian, however, during a rapidly developing emergency event that might not be possible.

In order to avoid causing unnecessary pain and distress to the animal, and to minimise the risk to yourself, it's important you either know how to properly euthanise an animal and are willing to do so, or have identified someone in your support network (see section one for more information) who's willing and competent to perform euthanasia.

It's a difficult thing to have to contemplate, but it's important to be prepared. You'll find information on how to conduct euthanasia humanely and correctly in the relevant Codes of Welfare, published by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI).



See **Codes of Welfare** for more information, go to mpi.govt.nz/animals/animal-welfare/codes/



Jay Farnworth Photographer

Shelter at home

Sometimes, emergencies make it unsafe to leave your home and property for extended periods. If this happens, **stay in your home until emergency services and/or Hawke's Bay Emergency Management say it's safe to leave.**

If you do have to stay, be sure you, your whānau and animals have everything you need for several days. Remember, you might have no electricity and limited cell phone coverage.

Shelter at home checklist

- What will you eat and drink?
- What will your animals eat and drink?
- How will you cook your food?
- How will you keep warm?
- What will you use for lighting?
- How will you wash?
- What will you use as a toilet?
- What will you do if you get sick/have an accident?
- How will you keep up to date with what's going on?
- How will you keep in contact and support your neighbours?

Ensure you have:

- torch with spare batteries or a self-charging torch
- radio with spare batteries
- wind and waterproof clothing, sun hats, strong outdoor shoes
- first aid kit and essential medicines
- blankets or sleeping bags
- pet supplies
- toilet paper and large rubbish bags for your emergency toilet
- face and dust masks
- non-perishable food (canned or dried)

- food, formula and drinks for babies and small children
- water for drinking
- water for washing and cooking
- a primus gas cooker or gas barbeque to cook on
- a can opener
- for more information visit hbemergency.govt.nz/get-ready

Do's	Don'ts
<p>Turn off utilities if told to do so. You might be asked to turn off water or electricity supply to prevent damage to your home.</p> <p>Where possible, use battery operated lighting if the power goes out. If candles are the only source of light, use them on a stable, flat surface or holder away from anything flammable and never leave them unattended while burning.</p>	<p>Don't turn off gas unless you're explicitly advised to do so by the emergency services and/or Hawke's Bay Emergency Management. You'll need it for heating and cooking. If you do turn gas off, a licensed professional is required to turn it back on and it could take weeks for a professional to respond.</p> <p>Don't use outdoor gas appliances like patio heaters, camping cookers and barbecues indoors. These appliances don't have safety systems to shut off the gas supply when oxygen levels are depleted, and high levels of carbon monoxide are present. If this happens, you could die.</p>

For your animals

Make sure you have plenty of water and food for your animals and organise that before you need it. Buy a bit more than you think you'll need to avoid increasing prices. You can always sell it later if you don't need it.

For stock, introduce a little supplementary feed to their diet early on so they're used to eating it when their normal food runs out.

Store supplementary feed in an area safe from flooding. It's not safe to feed flood contaminated food to your animals.



Sheltering away from home

If you're away when an emergency happens, you might not be able to get back to your property for several days. Talk to your neighbours sooner rather than later to put any plans in place, especially if you have animals that need to be cared for.

- Give them your contact details.
- Give one, or more, of your neighbours a key to your house and sheds.
- Let them know what animals you have on your property, where you store your animal feed, equipment and medications.
- Offer them the same support in return.

Practise and review your plan

It's important to practise your plan regularly. That way, everyone knows what they need to do. It's also important to familiarise your animals with being handled and moved around the property.

Review your plan at least once a year and after every emergency event so you're sure it's still fit for purpose.

Communities are always important, especially in emergencies. Work with your neighbours and wider community to create individual and community plans so you can all help each other when you need it most.