**Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development**

GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

*We're working for
Western Australia.*

Returning home after a flood

It helps to think ahead about what the physical environment might look and feel like when you return home.

Safe to return?

Flood waters may pose a risk for some time after the initial flood event. Floodwater may be deep, fast moving and extremely dangerous. It may be contaminated with pollutants or pathogens. Beware of unsafe structures and debris.

Only return home or emerge from shelter when told it is safe to do so.

Check

If you have been evacuated, you will need to check your home environment's suitability for your animals for when they return. This includes:

- [ ] checking floodwater levels
- [ ] checking food supplies
- [ ] checking water for contamination
- [ ] removing debris
- [ ] checking fences
- [ ] checking for fallen electrical wires

When safe to do so, assess animals that were not evacuated. Check them for illness or injury sustained during the flood. Provide clean water, food and veterinary care. Badly injured animals may need to be euthanased.

Bringing evacuated animals home

Only return animals after you have ensured their home environment is safe for them. You may need to wait until floodwaters recede.

Floods can change the environment. Mud can be slippery and dangerous. As a result, animals may become disorientated, frightened, and aggressive when returning to their changed surroundings. Take care when releasing them.

Initially, monitor animals at least daily to ensure they are eating properly, have not sustained further injuries and are settling in.

Managing food and water

Ensure your animals have access to safe drinking water and a reliable food source

Ration any existing unspoilt feed until new feed can be accessed. Be cautious of food items stored in refrigeration, as power supplies may have been interrupted and food spoiled..

For information about how to access animal food supplies in your area.

Visit **agric.wa.gov.au**

Concerns about the welfare of native animals can be directed to the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

Visit **dbca.wa.gov.au**

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