

Emergency Shelter for Livestock

Animal owners are responsible for the care of their animals, including horses and farm stock in emergencies.

The State [Animal Disaster /Animal Care Plan](http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/erp/6_8.pdf) <http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/erp/6_8.pdf> emphasizes the role of owners in preparing to shelter livestock in-place. According to that plan, when faced with an emergency:

- Unless otherwise informed, the owner turns animals out to pasture, provides adequate water for the animals, and applies a form of identification to each animal.
- All personnel, evacuees, and pets remain at the closest safe location and wait there until travel becomes safe.
- When travel is safe, the owner or his/her designee transports livestock to a private or RIDART-staffed emergency animal care facility, stable, or pasture.
- Livestock remain in pastures unless otherwise indicated.

Hence, the State and its volunteer support (the Rhode Island Disaster Animal Response Team – RIDART) anticipate only back-up sheltering of livestock in the Remediation Phase of a disaster (e.g., AFTER a barn fire or a hurricane), when owners are incapable of caring for their own stock.

When appropriate the Office of the State Veterinarian may authorize State emergency sheltering of livestock. Normally, the location of that sheltering will depend on needs and resources at the time, but the following have been identified as potential sites:

1) Washington County Fairgrounds, Route 122, Richmond RI

- Capacities:
 - Three barns
 - A pig barn, adequate for holding about 30 head
 - A sheep barn, adequate for holding about 130 head
 - A dairy barn, adequate for holding about 100 head, with a one-at-a-time milking parlor
 - A show ring, approximately 100'-by-50' surrounded by a 4' fence
 - Hutches adequate for about 100 rabbits and/or poultry
- Limitations:
 - The Fairgrounds will be unavailable during the Washington County Fair, normally the second week in August.
 - Normally, food and animal-care supplies are not stored on-site and water is shut off from mid-October to mid-March.
 - Call in-advance to be sure that facilities are available. The Fairgrounds is private property, owned and operated by the Washington County Pomona Grange.
- Contact:
 - Chairman Peter/Clyde Fish. Phone (401) 397-5998 or 821-6238 or FAX (401) 823-5170

2) Sunset Stables, 1 Twin River Road (adjacent to Lincoln Woods State Park), Lincoln, RI 02865

- Capacities:
 - Stable
 - Open, electric-fenced turn-out area with hitching rails, normally adequate for up to 25 horses
 - Paddock (in 12' sections) that could be set up in the turn-out area to accommodate up to 6 more horses or 2-3 cattle for a short time
- Limitations:
 - Since horses would be co-mingled, emergency sheltered animals must all be healthy and originate from the same facility
 - Facility normally near capacity of 25 head
 - Call in-advance to be sure that facilities are available. Sunset Stables leases land that is owned by the State and managed by the DEM Division of Parks and Recreation.
- Contact:
 - Jim Borden of Sunset Stables (leaser). Phone (401) 722-3033 or 640-2784 or 728-7804.

3) LG Reynolds Horsemen's Camping Area, Arcadia Management Area, 260 Arcadia Road, Hope Valley, RI 02823

- Capacities:
 - Open, wood-railed ring (approximately 200'-by-80') with hand-pumped water, normally used for training up to 10 horses
 - Ring in an emergency could corral 20-30 head of cattle for a short time
- Limitations:
 - Since horses would be co-mingled, emergency sheltered animals must all be healthy and originate from the same facility
 - Although the facility is open year-round, the access road is rough. Use of the facility is normally suspended in early-spring mud season, and the access is not plowed in the winter
 - There is no electrical power, and water is apt to freeze in the winter
 - Call in-advance to be sure that facilities are available. The facilities are on State property that is managed by the DEM Division of Forest Environment.
- Contact:
 - Arcadia Management Area, DEM Division of Forest Environment Headquarters. Phone (401) 539-1052 or 539-2356, or DEM Division of Law Enforcement (401) 222-2284; after-hours (401) 222-3070

4) Goddard Memorial State Park, 1095 Ives Road, Warwick, RI 02818

- Capacities:
 - Equestrian show area, with stable, fenced corral and water

- Limitations:
 - Since horses would be co-mingled, emergency sheltered animals must all be healthy and originate from the same facility
 - Call in-advance to be sure that facilities are available. Facilities are on State property that is managed by the DEM Division of Parks and Recreation.

- Contact:
 - Parks Chief, Goddard Memorial State Park. Phone (401) 884-2010, 884-0088, or 222-2284, or DEM Division of Law Enforcement (401) 222-2284; after-hours (401) 222-3070