



National
Operational
Guidance

Control measure - Specialist advice: Animals 2



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Control measure knowledge

ARCHIVED - Assistance from owners or keepers should be sought if appropriate, or consider other agencies such as animal welfare charities. In particular, consider issues arising from the presence of animals or insects such as the risk of infection or disease and their implications on casualty care.

Consider requesting advice and support from animal specialists including:

- Animal owners
- Land owners
- Farmers
- Land managers
- Responsible persons
- Animal rescue/behaviour specialists
- Fire and rescue service animal rescue specialists
- Veterinary practices
- Animal welfare charities
- Defra
- Local authority animal health inspectors

Where the facilities contain dangerous animals, fire and rescue personnel should liaise with on-site staff to determine locations with potential hazards and to identify safe access and egress routes. Fire and rescue service personnel should be accompanied by on-site staff and there should not be any unsupervised working.

Animals should be secured so that they cannot come into contact with fire and rescue service personnel.

Fire and rescue service personnel should remain vigilant, especially regarding the security arrangements in animal facilities, to prevent them from being accidentally locked in cages or other

areas. For further information refer to Hazard: [Security features](#).

On-site CCTV can be used to support monitoring the animal facility, and assessing any activity that could impact on fire and rescue service personnel.

The responsible person may be able to provide information about antidotes, antivenom or specialist treatment, in case this is required. See also National Operational Guidance: Operations - [Manage risk from biological hazards](#)

Strategic actions

Fire and rescue services should:

- Make arrangements for mutual aid for animal rescue or evacuation
- Consider pre-planning with land owners, land managers and other animal owners to consider how they would deal with their animals in a wildfire situation
- Liaise with animal charity and other animal associations in conjunction with the statutory resilience forum to develop tactical plans and contingencies

Tactical actions

Incident commanders should:

- Identify and liaise with the owner or person responsible for any animals involved
- Identify resources that may be available to contain or corral animals if needed
- Request support with managing animals from owners, keepers, police, vets or welfare organisations