

Emergency animal treatment during NSW floods

Private veterinarians are authorised to provide “emergency animal treatment for a condition that is as a result of the flood event” without seeking prior approval. Private vets will be issued an initial approved Finance Request (FR) (authority to spend the agreed value) to the total value of \$10,000 including GST.

Note: The initial \$10,000 Finance Request amount is an initial upper limit for each practice. If the cost of eligible cases exceeds this amount, additional Finance Request can be requested by the practice.

If you haven’t been provided with an FR, or are seeking an increase, please email emergency.finance@dpird.nsw.gov.au.

1. Eligibility criteria

“emergency treatment”: includes initial consult and treatment to address the immediate welfare and veterinary needs of the animal. Does not include subsequent consults and ongoing treatment.

Where different animals present with separate conditions at different times, each consult is regarded as initial. e.g. A single owner has a horse that presents with a laceration sustained while escaping floodwaters, then several days later reports lameness in cattle as a result of standing in floodwaters. Both consults and treatments are eligible for payment.

“as a result of the flood event”: includes conditions directly arising from:

- exposure to floodwaters,
- trauma from escaping floodwaters
- the immediate evacuation process

Note: where it is unclear whether a case meets the above criteria, please contact Agriculture and Animal Services Functional Area (AASFA) at emergency.finance@dpird.nsw.gov.au

2. Eligible activities and costs

No.	Example	Covered by AASFA
2.1	A horse cuts itself on barbed wire while escaping floodwaters. Vet attends to stitch wound, provide pain relief, and antibiotics.	Yes

2.2	A horse presents with pythiosis ('swamp cancer') on multiple limbs. Vet attends to assess and instigate treatment.	Yes
2.3	A large percentage of a dairy herd develops mastitis after they had to be dried off due to the flood event. Vet attends and dispenses antibiotics.	Yes
2.4	Cattle standing in paddocks impacted by flooding or inundation develop lameness. Vet attends to assess and treat.	Yes
2.5	Dog presents with otitis resulting from prolonged exposure to wet conditions.	Yes
2.6	During the flood event a dog is lost and reunited with owner 2 weeks later, but has lost weight and appears in poor condition. Owner brings animal to vet for assessment.	Yes
2.7	Cattle develop pneumonia 10 days after flooding. Vet attends and dispenses treatment.	Yes
2.8	Animal sustains serious injury as a direct result of the event e.g. broken limb from fleeing the flood.	Yes
2.9	Dog is taken to an evac centre and sustains wounds from a fight with another dog at the centre. Vet stitches wound under anaesthesia, provides pain relief, and antibiotics.	Yes
2.10	Dog is taken to an evac centre then subsequently develops 'kennel cough' 1 week later. Presents to vet for assessment and treatment.	Yes
2.11	Cat is evacuated to a relative's house. Three days later the cat escapes and is injured, and is taken to vet for treatment.	Yes

3. Exclusions

No.	Example	Covered by AASFA
3.1	Several days later (on the same horse from example 2.1), the wound is infected, and the stitching breaks down requiring a revisit.	No
3.2	The same horse (example 2.1) is checked two weeks later and requires further treatment for the same condition.	No
3.3	A client who is under financial hardship due to the flood attends a vet practice for a dog vaccination consult.	No
3.4	Livestock present with lameness as a result of ongoing exposure to muddy lanes/paddocks due to rain.	No

4. Invoicing

Please submit all invoices within 30 days of providing goods or services to the response. Invoices can be emailed to emergency.finance@dpird.nsw.gov.au and must be made out to:

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
Locked Bag 21, Orange NSW 2800
Attention: Emergency Management Unit

Please ensure invoices meet Australian Taxation Office (ATO) invoicing requirements, and provide the following.

No	Requirement
4.1	Supplier ABN, legal trading name, address, email and contact number
4.2	Supplier bank account details including account name, account number and BSB
4.3	Finance request number e.g., FR4567
4.4	Purchase Order Number, if received from the Department
4.5	Description of treatment undertaken including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Name of private veterinarian that undertook the treatment• Name and address of owner of the animal/s• Why the condition meets the emergency animal treatment for a condition that is a result of the flood event (see 2. Eligible activities and costs on page 1)• Charge for each individual treatment with costings