

ANNOUNCEMENT – **UPDATE**

Subject: **Temporary Suspension of Animal Health Requirements for Evacuees from Hurricane Dorian**

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Effective immediately, animal movement health requirements for pets, equine and livestock entering and travelling within the state of Georgia will be temporarily suspended for evacuees from the path of Hurricane Dorian. This includes a certificate of veterinary inspection (health certificate), a Coggins test for equine, and vaccination requirements for pets. The Georgia Department of Agriculture is providing this temporary suspension in order to facilitate the rapid and safe evacuation of people and animals from the path of Hurricane Dorian.

Currently, this temporary suspension applies to **Florida and South Carolina evacuees and their animals** but will be upgraded as requested by state animal health officials. This temporary suspension of animal movement health requirements DOES NOT APPLY to animals entering or moving within Georgia that are not associated with Hurricane Dorian evacuees. All other animals must follow normal animal movement health requirements.

This temporary suspension of animal movement health requirements will be **in effect until Sept. 19, 2019**, unless rescinded or extended. It is recommended that all evacuees check with their home regulatory authority to determine what will be required for them to return to their state of origin.

The Georgia Department of Agriculture is extremely concerned for the safety and well-being of evacuees and their animals. Prior to evacuation, it is recommended that a specific destination be established. It is understood and expected that accepted animal safety procedures and animal health practices will be observed while transporting animals to their temporary destinations. Please remember any special needs that your animals may require such as medications, blankets, cages, food and water.

Please visit the Georgia Department of Agriculture website at www.agr.georgia.gov for information and tips on emergency preparedness.