

## **Mitigation against Floods**

Mitigation against floods involves two principal aspects, avoiding building in floodplains and building to sufficient standards for protection. These principles apply to animal owners, veterinary practices, animal shelters, farms, and other facilities in the animal care community. Advocates for the care of animals can also work with local governments on the implementation of these measures. To accomplish effective flood mitigation a good understanding of the options is helpful. These are described in the following.

Proper land use management and strict enforcement of building codes are community responsibilities. Information about floodplain management can be obtained from local county governments. The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is a federal program enabling and encouraging property owners to purchase flood insurance. Through the NFIP people can protect themselves from financial ruin caused by property loss from floods. Local property insurance agencies are usually well informed about flood insurance. Communities should also establish land use management practices to decrease the potential for damage from mudslides and dam failures.

Buildings should not be allowed in floodplains unless they are elevated and reinforced. If livestock or horses are grazed in floodplains, the owners should be prepared to move them to higher ground before low-lying evacuation routes become flooded.