



## Farm Sitting Checklist

*FarmCare is excited to be given the responsibility for caring for your animals. To ensure the best for their health and welfare while you are gone, we ask you to follow this checklist of items that will allow your sitter to provide the best possible care. As always, you can contact us at any time with any questions.*

\_\_\_ Write up all instructions and make at least two copies. Include a basic profile of each animal, including any pertinent health issues/history and behavioral quirks. Include all emergency numbers (vet, insurance, farrier, backup sitters, alternate contact, how you can be reached during your vacations, maintenance help, feed store, local emergency numbers for police, fire department, poison control, etc.). Include your wishes in the event of a medical emergency or life/death decision. Provide a step-by-step outline of your daily routine.

\_\_\_ Set things up to be as easy and basic as possible. Pre-bag and label grain/supplements for each feeding, if possible. Make a diagram of your facility/fields, labeling where each animal lives and gets turned out. Make sure your animals' names are on their living areas, feed buckets, etc. Ensure all medications are very clearly labeled, and that the medication label and prescribing vet's information is legible.

\_\_\_ Make sure all fencing, equipment and so on is in good repair, and that there are supplies to fix things if necessary (or leave the number for your maintenance professional).

\_\_\_ Write out your animal's favorite hiding places. This help the sitter find your animal if he or she does not appear when the sitter arrives.

\_\_\_ If your animal has any unusual habits like destructive behavior when left alone, change in bowel or eating habits, etc., tell your sitter about these in advance.

\_\_\_ Make sure all feed, supplements and first-aid supplies are stocked up.

\_\_\_ Make sure each individual animal's equipment is separate, labeled and easy to find, such as blankets, boots, wraps, fly masks, etc.

\_\_\_ Have an account set up with your vet and emergency hospital in the event your animal needs sudden care. Perhaps have something set up at the feed store as well.

\_\_\_ Provide documentation confirming that your animal is up-to-date on vaccinations. Make sure your animal wears current vaccination tags on its collar (if applicable).

\_\_\_ Make sure your sitter knows about any boarders or regular staff (barn, maintenance, landscapers) who come out to your farm, and what their vehicles look like, so they can identify any suspicious vehicles.

\_\_\_ Have a truck/horse trailer ready in case of emergency, or the number of an emergency shipper.

\_\_\_ Have the sitter come before vacations to go over the facility, animals, your routine and expectations/rules.

\_\_\_ If you have arranged for someone to exercise your horses while you're on vacation, make sure they know where all the equipment is, and what your expectations and exercise schedule are. Have things set up so they do not have to ride by themselves with no one else on the property. Make sure everyone has appropriate liability insurance. Make sure the sitter knows this person is permitted to ride your horses.

\_\_\_ Try not to change any animal's feed, routine, supplements or medications before you leave. You don't want your sitter to be left with a potentially negative aftermath when they don't fully know your animals.