

## **Responsibilities**

- Under the law an animal owner/keeper has a duty of care to their animals. Reasonable steps should always be taken to protect the health welfare of animals.
- Farmers are expected to address animal welfare contingency planning as part of their farm business planning. This is especially the case where it is known or anticipated that livestock might be at risk during severe weather.
- As a general principle, animals must not be left in circumstances where they are likely to suffer. If necessary, action should be taken, even if that action is euthanasia by a vet. This procedure can also be carried out by a legally competent person.
- In an emergency LAs, APHA, RSPCA and others will do what they can to provide advice. They will also facilitate means to prevent or alleviate the suffering of animals. However, the legal responsibility remains with the animal's owner/keeper.

## **Weather Warnings**

The Met Office provides a “National Severe Weather Warnings” service, which can be accessed via the website below:

<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/warnings/#?tab=map>

The service aims to warn the public and emergency responders of severe or hazardous weather. Any severe weather that has the potential to cause danger to life or widespread disruption will be included. Warnings for rain, snow, wind, fog and ice are provided.

Register to receive email updates by clicking on the “Email Alerts” link at the top of the webpage. Further advice and guidance is also available via the links provided.

## **Markets**

It is a legal requirement that no one shall cause or permit injury or suffering, whatever the cause, in a market. This also extends to periods during severe weather. Water provision at markets is absolutely essential. Where markets are unable to provide such alternative supplies in instances of mains delivery failure then markets should not proceed to operate.