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NATIONAL ANIMAL DISASTER RELIEF PROGRAM- PILOT

Community Engagement Strategies. Creation of A Dedicated
Preparedness, Response and Relief Organisation

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THE BUSHFIRE FOUNDATION INC



5/05/2018

Community Engagement Strategies. Creation of A Dedicated Preparedness, Response and Relief Organisation

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NATIONAL ANIMAL DISASTER RELIEF PROGRAM- PILOT

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES. CREATION OF A DEDICATED
PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE AND RELIEF ORGANISATION

EXECUTIVE FORWARD

Nathan Rogers, *CEO and Founder*

This report provides a snapshot of the findings into the gap in our community based around animal emergency management in Australia. It comprises information in the form of brief overviews based around various components of this forgotten sector amongst our community and aims to support the development of a pilot program within Victoria, with the intention of expansion to both a national and potentially global level to be driven and lead by The Bushfire Foundation Inc.

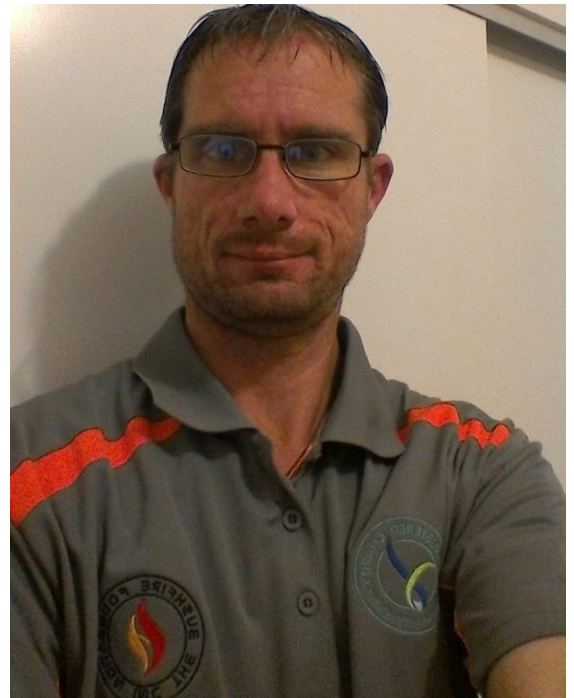
This report has been compiled as part of a concept to develop a broader more structured approach to the issue of Animals and Animal Welfare in disasters which our foundation commenced to find facts and evidence to support our project around Animals in Disasters and what could be done to improve Preparedness, Response, and Resilience for individuals and what could be done through organisational collaboration to improve this area.

We commenced this research after we obtained an existing database from another organisation based around Equine Temporary Shelter and Relocation, however upon being given this permission to control this database, we immediately developed a plan to improve and support it through a National Disaster Support Network for Animals.

This report has been constructed to support the development of the pilot program based on several core deliverables that the program aims to provide and to assist with the decision making and best approach to manage the issue of Animal Emergency Management in Australia.

Some of these core deliverables will be;

1. Development of Training for community, industry and Emergency Protection Agencies to assist in improving the knowledge base around this issue from all levels to better educate and support each other with Animal Disaster Relief.
2. Development of employment roles within the Animal Disaster relief Sector to assist with ongoing improvements and expansion to national and global level.



3. Development and Establishment of Animal Disaster Relief Foodbanks to store and house animal welfare essentials for times of need in disasters.
4. Development of what is to be known as Community Animal Relief Teams (CARTS), a trained and equipment specialised group of volunteers to prepare, respond and recover communities when disasters strike, they will be led by a dedicated management structure and support staff to assist them to deliver a service to the community that is modelled on the likes of the Country Fire Authority and State emergency Service

OUR VISION:

- To Improve and Enhance community strategies to prepare, respond and Manage Animal Disaster Relief.

VALUES/PURPOSE:

- Community Building through Volunteering opportunities
- Develop National Capacity to create animal inclusive community resilience
- Provide National Training and Skills Education
- Improvement of Animal Disaster Management Principals and Practice in Australia.

WHY:

- We wish to address the significant animal welfare emergency management capability gap in Australia and the world
- To provide support networks and to protect disaster affected animals in partnership with the community
- To provide local response to support animal disaster relief systems and structures

Overall this report provides evidence and working examples of how our foundation will lead a systematic approach to improve the collaboration and responsibilities and for the proposes of Building a more holistic and ambitious animal disaster-resilience framework that will ensure ongoing sustainable development – which we believe is a cornerstone for peace and the basis for adaptation to assist in climate change in Australia.

KIND REGARDS



NATHAN ROGERS
CHEIF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
THE BUSHFIRE FOUNDATION INC

NATURAL DISASTERS CRISIS RESPONSE FOR ANIMAL WELFARE. PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE AND RELIEF,

This Pilot Program will propose the creation of a Dedicated Community Lead Organisation, to address Preparedness, Response and Relief issues concerning Stock and Domestic Animal Welfare arising from Natural Disasters. The Pilot Program will explore and develop Dedicated Community (localized) Teams in Preparedness for Animal Welfare Natural Disasters, Respond to Animal Welfare Crisis Management and Relief short term and long term concerning Animal Welfare. To create such an Organisation it would be vital that collaboration between Governments on all levels and Communities with in Australia are established.

IDENTIFIED FINICAL COST OF NATURAL DISASTERS

A report from by IAG and the Australian Business Roundtable for Disaster Resilience& Safer Communities was formed in 2012 to influence public policy via evidence-based reporting on the unsustainable cost of Disaster on life, Property and the Economy. The Roundtable members found that it was vital to Coordinator National Approach to make Communities safer. They also believe that the National investment in Disaster Resilience and Prevention activities is the most effective way to protect communities and reduce the impact of a Disaster. Below are the reported findings of cost of Natural Disasters in the last ten years and the projected costs by the year 2050.

“Natural Disaster costs to Reach \$39 Billion per year by 2050”

BUILDING RESILIENCE TO NATURAL DISASTERS IN OUR STATES AND TERRITORIES

According to the *Building Resilience to Natural Disasters in our States and Territories*, prepared by the Deloitte Access Economics,

The total economic cost of natural disasters in Australia over the last 10years to 2016 was averaged to be \$18.2 billion per year. That is the equivalent to 12% of the average Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

So, in Real Terms, the total economic cost of natural disasters if projected to grow by 3.4%per year, double by the 2038 and by 2050 may potentially reach \$39 Billion per year in Real Terms.

More than 9 Million Australians have been impacted by Natural Disasters or Extreme Weather events over the last 30 years and Animals have been largely been negated and absorbed into these staggering figures as a secondary factor if that, below is a brief overview of the costs of Natural Disasters by State and Territory's:

National

- Total cost of Natural disasters 2007-2016: \$18.2 Billion
- Percentage of GDP: 1.2%
- Total cost of Natural disasters today (based on 50years of data): \$13.2 Billion
- Forecasted annual cost of Natural Disasters cost in 2050: \$39.3 Billion
- Average annual growth in natural disaster cost, 2017 to 2050:3.4%

Victoria

- The total economic cost of Natural disasters in Victoria over the previous decade averaged at \$2.7 billion per year, or 15% of the National Cost
- Hail accounted for 36% of the cost, 27% due to Storms and 26% were due to Bushfires
- The total economic cost of Natural disasters in Victoria will reach \$3.2 Billion a year by 2050, a growth rate of 3.6% per year.

New South Wales

- The total economic cost of Natural disasters in NSW over the past decade averaged at \$3.2 Billion per year, or 17% of the National cost.
- Storms accounted for 49% of this cost and 23% was due to Flood events.
- The totally economic cost of Natural disasters in NSW will reach \$10.6 Billion a year by 2050, a growth rate of 3.4% per year.

South Australia

- The total economic cost of Natural disasters in South Australia over the past 110 years has averaged at \$300 Million a year
- Hail accounted for 48% of this cost, 45% was due to Bushfires and 7% was through storm events
- The Total economic cost of Natural disasters in South Australia will reach \$700 Million a year by 2050, a growth rate of 3.6% per year

Tasmania

- The total economic cost of Natural disasters in Tasmania over the past decade averaged \$200 Million each year.
- Bushfires accounted for 52% of this cost and 48% was due to Storms
- The total economic cost of Natural disasters in Tasmania over the past decade averaged \$200 Million per year.
- Bushfires accounted for 52% of this cost and 48% was due to Storm events
- The total economic cost of Natural disasters in Tasmania will reach \$600 Million a year by 2050, a growth rate of 3.1% per year

Northern Territory

- The total economic cost of Natural disasters in the Northern Territory over the past decade averaged \$50 Million each year.
- All these costs over this period was attributed to Cyclone events.
- The total cost of Natural disaster in the Northern Territory will reach \$3.3 Billion a year by 2050, a growth of 2.8%

Queensland, (Has been identified as the most disaster-prone state)

- The total economic costs of Natural disasters in Queensland over the past decade averaged \$11 Billion per year. This equates to 60% of the National cost over this period.
- Flood events accounted for 66% of the costs, 25% was due to Cyclones, Hail and Storm events accounted for 6% and 4% respectively.
- The total economic cost of natural disasters in Queensland will reach \$18 Billion a year by 2050, a growth rate of 3.3% per year.

Australian Capital Territory

- The total economic cost of Natural disasters in the ACT today, based on the 50years of historical data is \$50 Million a year.
- The total economic cost of Natural disasters in the ACT will reach\$150 Million by2050, a growth rate of 3.1%

These staggering figures show the economic cost to Australians in general values and a complete break down of direct costs have identified a gap in priority areas such a

ANIMAL WELFARE.

The Bushfire Foundation has researched several areas of high need that may assist in the reduction of the costs of both financial and Lives. (Human and Animal). The Gaps already identified in the MAID (Managing Animals in Disasters) research team findings, concerning Animal welfare, indicate that while there have been some areas address more comprehensively than others by community engagement or emergency management planning activities groups. A disturbing gap remains.

The Bushfire Foundation hopes to not only address these Gaps, but potentially reduce the Loss of lives of both Human and Stock and Domestic Animals. We hope to establish CART (Community Animal Response Team), Teams in every State, Territory through a grass roots Organisation like the CFA and SES. A dedicates organization/ community enterprise that Assists in the Preparedness, Response and Relief for Animals.

WHAT WILL BE DONE:

our organisation hopes to provide a nationwide support network that will include the following:

1. Provide support to animal owners in emergencies with the evacuation/relocation of animals and provide appropriate support structures for their short-term emergency relief care
2. Provide Rehabilitation and Recovery programs for injured animals
3. Establishment of permanent full time Emergency Animal Disaster Relief Food banks for storing and housing of animal food donations, water stations and appropriate animal care items for use in disaster relief situations and will be available 24/7 for dispatch to provide disaster relief to communities.
4. Provide a National Education and Training Framework in Animal Emergency Management and Animal Disaster Management for all our volunteer CART responder's, support staff and other supporting agencies and organisations such as each of the state-based Fire Services, SES and Police.
5. Providing Employment pathways and supported dedicated work experience programs such as work for the dole programs based around warehousing and Animal Disaster Relief.
6. Promoting animal-inclusive hazard mitigation, emergency preparedness and recovery amongst communities
7. Maintain and Operate a National animal evacuation database available for partner organisations to access to promote real-time collaboration and information sharing during a disaster
8. Work with existing animal shelters for the ongoing care, reunification or rehoming of evacuated animals if needed
9. Implement post-disaster community recovery projects for improving animal welfare and resilience to future events (i.e. family animal emergency plans, revegetation of animal living environments)

10. Provide research and data analysis to establish accountable and capable animal emergency management arrangements throughout Australia.

HOW WE WILL ACHIEVE THIS THROUGH THIS PILOT PROGRAM?

We are aiming to set up a pilot program that will see the establishment of potential employment and training opportunities based around animal welfare/disaster relief, first aid, warehousing and OHS as well as administration. These roles will support a National Network of Animal Disaster Support via a National Headquarters that we are trying to establish in our state (Victoria) based in Bendigo.

This National Program aims to offer an Emergency Response Based Concept similar to the likes of a Fire Service or State Emergency Service through the establishment of national, regional and state based volunteer animal emergency responders to be known as Community Animal Relief Teams (CARTS), that will assist in preparing homes through support and education programs based around animals and setting up safe properties before a disaster.

They will work along-side and support emergency service agencies through offering support to members of the community who have animals by relocating them to appropriate first aid or veterinary services based at Animal Relocation Sites that we aim to establish in each state in cooperation with the Appropriate government agencies and aim to be included into the appropriate ACTs and Regulations to help us do this

NATIONALLY COORDINATED FUNCTIONS

- Government and MP liaison and advocacy
- Provide A national specification for Animal Disaster Relief trailers
- Provide national template for Animal Emergency Relief Centre Development and Operation
- Administration of Community Animal Relief Team Volunteer Database
- Administration of Animal Relocation Database (formally known as National Equine Database N.E.D)
- Financial systems, annual reports, payments and related authorities
- Coordination of national meetings, training and conferences
- Volunteer/personnel vetting (i.e. Police Checks)
- Establishment of National SOPs, policies, safety systems and quality management systems
- National response coordination including inter-state deployment
- Establishment and development of MOUs with partner agencies
- Employ appropriate National Staff for management of Program

STATE COORDINATED FUNCTIONS:

- Provide initial representation at group ICCs if requested in an emergency
- Participate in group level Animal Disaster Relief meetings
- Recruit a pool of suitable volunteers for Community Animal Relief Teams
- Maintain regional Animal Disaster Relief trailer/s to national specifications
- Hold exercises and ensure readiness of organisations within regions
- Deliver nationally approved readiness and recovery projects
- Employ State based Managers and Coordinators to Assist with Program management and functions

COMMUNITY LEVEL COORDINATED:

- Participate in local level Animal Disaster Relief planning and meetings
- Support fundraising and resource maintenance
- Ensure site plans for Animal Emergency Relief Centre Development and Operation are developed and maintained.

1. ANIMAL DISASTER RELIEF FOODBANKS

Dedicated Animal Disaster Relief Food Storage (Food Banks) that will encourage Community Engagement, Skill Building and Training, Social interaction and support for all Stakeholders and Cohorts. While many natural disasters cause great financial hardship and can tragically result in loss of human life, animals are often forgotten in the chaos. Domesticated animals, dependent on human caretakers for survival, are often left to perish during these events. This loss of Domesticated Animals is preventable in a majority of these Disasters if food and water is provided quickly. This will reduce the loss and costs to the Communities affected.

2. COMMUNITY ANIMAL RELIEF TEAMS

Teams of Volunteers will work in our community supporting our local Emergency Service Agencies when there is a disaster such as storms and fires to provide support and assistance to members of the community who have animals on their properties or as pets. The teams will offer transport services of animals to help relocate them, before and after a disaster if required, they will also assist and deliver water and food supplies to animal owners that require this after a disaster to assist with the animal welfare on their properties. They will help animal owners to prepare their properties.

PREPAREDNESS:

Currently the Foundation has developed a program that assist in the identification of vulnerable community members that require assistance to meet council / CFA required preparedness standards. The Foundation Completes a comprehensive assessment of Works that need assistance in undertaking and then assembles a volunteer team to carry out the works. Then reports the outcome of the works back to the council to be register compliance. So, no further action is required such as fining the property owner. The Foundation can include WFTD (Working for the Dole) participants in these working groups.

The Foundation hope to further provide services for Property owners that include Preparedness for Animal welfare (Safer Zones). and assistance to evacuate on Leave early Days.

Assisting identified individuals, who have pets and or Stock that may need to be evacuated to encourage and assist people to leave early, when a Natural Disaster event has been forecast by Authorities with in their local Area/Shire/Region.

RESPONSE

The CAR Team would attend (POLR) Places of last resort where possible in the warning period and set up a Food and Water Station specifically for Stock and Domestic animals, to assist and aid any person that arrives with animals. The CAR Team will provide general first aid and welfare needs for the animals as needed, including temporary shelter and caging/ fencing required.

RELIEF

CART's (Community Animal Relief Teams) would assist in the Relief care of Animals during and after the event by coordinating Accommodation/ Housing for animals where needed and aiding with basic needs and care where needed. Short Term and Long Term.

The Bushfire foundation is looking for cohorts from all levels of Government and from the community. This Project will potentially generate its own industry to support its structure. It will create far reaching Social and Financial benefits for Australia.

- The development of a dedicate service will generate the following connecting Benefits
- Social Engagement
- Youth participation, pathways for Education and Training.
- Equipment
- Uniforms
- Agriculture partnerships
- Insurance partnership
- Infrastructure
- Business partnerships

The need for the development of a Dedicated Service Organisation will also be a complementary service to such organisations as the CFA, SES and Emergency Services. The CAR Team will be able to self-manage localised issues in conjunction with Local Authorities. This will enhance the ability to reduce the risk of loss of life by sharing the responsibilities of Crisis Management for animals.

3. COMMUNITY ANIMAL RELIEF DIRECTORY

The purpose of the directory is so that we can develop a nationwide support network for animals in disasters. You can register to be listed on the directory as a community animal relief station by offering to make your property or surrounding areas available to take on and care for animals for a specified time during disasters.

ANIMAL DISASTER RELIEF TRAINING FRAMEWORK

WHY WE WANT TO DEVELOP TRAINING:

1. Education and Training

There is no overarching Animal Welfare Emergency Management Handbook based on Prevention, Preparedness, Response, Evacuation and Recovery principles within the Australian Emergency Management Institute (AEMI) suite of publications.

Education and Training in Animal Emergency Management based on Prevention, Preparedness, Response Evacuation and Recovery principles is ad hoc.

2. Government Skills Australia

Public Safety, Local Government and Public-Sector Training Package

Government Skills Australia, Environment Scan6 (2014) identified community evacuation as a skills gap and a technical reference group was formed to scope the work. If it is identified that the outcome of the scoping requires review or development to address gaps, continuous improvement work will be incorporated in the implementation of the new standards.

Currently Government Skills Australia Work reports that work is being completed in areas where technical reference groups had been formed. With the uncertainty around funding beyond June 2015, commencement of work on new areas has had to be suspended at present. All previously completed material is being finalised in preparation for the development work that may recommence in future.

3. Australian Emergency Management Institute

A lesson plan exists for students to develop their own Pet Disaster Plan and Pet Evacuation Kit. However, no online interactive product accompanies the lesson plan.

An interactive product is recommended that covers the content of the lesson plan in relation to the:

- Family Disaster Plan
- Preparing a Pet Disaster Plan
- Constructing a Pet Evacuation Kit
- How they might move their pet safely: carriers, portable kennel
- The impact of the disaster, such as emotional scarring - that disasters can have on pets.
- The Assessment / evidence of learning could be by way of an interactive quiz which encourages the student to reflect on their learning.

A. WHO WOULD ATTEND OR COMPLETE THIS TRAINING:

- Anyone interested in the welfare of animals following a disaster,
- Professionals trained in disaster response,
- Emergency medical services personnel,
- Firefighters,
- Animal shelter staff,
- Animal control officers,
- Veterinarians and vet technicians,
- Animal handlers/trainers,
- Red Cross volunteers,
- Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer with our foundation to assist in the operations and delivery of Animal Disaster Relief and welfare

B. TOPICS TRAINING MIGHT INCLUDE:

Various levels or different target areas like general for community and more complex for volunteers and emergency service personnel or responders who might want to complete this training

- Temporary and co-location sheltering/ Mock shelter setup and response
- Small animal behavior
- Large animal behavior
- Pet CPR & Pet first aid (large and Small)
- Common Emergencies and interventions
- Heat stroke
- Hypothermia
- Toxicities
- Bone fractures
- Burns
- Smoke inhalation
- Vital signs

- Basic Restraint and handling techniques (all animals)
- Basic behavioral assessments and Behavioral posturing
- Packaging and transport
- OHS
- Other skills for emergency response type setting based around animals

C. Recommended Professional Development/Other Sources of information on Animal Emergency Management

1. Animal Emergency Management 101
2. Recommended development and pathway to develop understanding in animal disaster management. <https://animaldisastermanagement.blog/aem101/>
3. ASPCA Pro – FIR 9: Fundamentals of Emergency Sheltering <https://www.aspcapro.org/training-online-courses/field-investigations-and-response-course-series>
4. FEMA Online
5. FEMA Animals in Disaster: Awareness <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-10.a>
6. FEMA Animals in Disaster: Planning <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-11.a>
7. FEMA Livestock in Disasters <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-111.a>
8. Register for your FEMA SID at <https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid>
9. Stress in Disaster Work www.nwcphp.org/training/opportunities/online-courses/workforce-resiliency-part-one
10. University Online MOOC <https://www.open2study.com/courses/emergency-management>

The Pilot program offers scope that includes; Employment development, Traineeships, Training and Education packages and Business and Industries Partnerships. We hope to offer significant opportunities to also engage with International Organisation that have established systems, policies and experience in dealing with the Projects Subject matter. Working Collaboratively to develop an Animal Management Global Programs to assist 2nd and 3rd world countries around Animal Management in Natural Disasters.

SCENARIO TO CONSIDER

Gloria is an 82-year-old Female living alone on a property 30minutes from her Service centre in Rural Victoria. She has one dog three cats and two mini horses that agist at her small property of 10acres.

She has no way to easily transport the horses nor the other animals.

There is a three-day forecast of extreme heat and high winds and advisory warning to leave early. Joan becomes stressed that she would have to leave her animals and decides that she will stay and try to manage the situation.

A fire does occur, and it is heading in the direction of Gloria's home.

HOW THE CART WOULD ASSIST.

Gloria has already been identified as needing assistance by local authorities and she has voluntarily registered with the Local CART organisation.

The CART group leader contacts Gloria as soon as the first warnings of the extreme weather alert has been given. Gloria agrees that she would leave, if she can take her animals. The CAR Team then arranges for their network to aid in the transport and housing of the animals until the weather event is over and they also assist Gloria in the cost of feeding and caring for the animals.

After the event an assessment of Gloria's Property shows extensive damage to the property but due to the intervention of the CAR Team Gloria is safe and so are her animals.

The Bushfire Foundation then assists in the on-going support of Gloria's animals until alternative solutions are found.

This is just one suggested scenario that the Dedicated service could provide.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

The Pilot Project will also gather data on all aspects of the project for analysis to report on the Tangible and Nontangible;

Tangible

- Success, Failings in Community Engagement
- Effects of the intervention through the Preparedness Program
- Effectiveness of the Animal Food Banks
- Effectiveness of the reduction of loss of Stock and Domestic animals
- The effects of the prevention and or reduction of Human Fatalities due to being able to leave rather than stay to protect their animals.
- The effectiveness of the Relief program in aid support.
- The effectiveness of Training and Education

Nontangible Research and Development

There will be other possible outcomes to research such as Psychology (Wellbeing post Disaster regarding the support received during and after an event).

Post recovery time impact

Preparedness awareness and effectiveness.

In conclusion the Aim, Development and Trial of this Pilot Program throughout Victoria is to create a Model that can easily be replicated through every State and Territory in Australia to reduce the effects and cost of Natural Disasters.

We have also established significant connections with global organisations such as Animal Evac NZ, and Humanity Road (USA) in which we are negotiating further to develop partnerships and sister programs around the world, from this we hope to host both an international and national conference based on Managing Animals in Emergencies in Bendigo in late 2019/Early 2020.

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