Animal Welfare In Emergencies
Benefits and Challenges of Integrating Animal Welfare into Emergency Management for Disaster Resilience
Animal Welfare in Emergencies

Background

- 2009 Victorian Bushfires
- 2011 National Strategy for Disaster Resilience
- National Principles for planning for animals in disasters
- WA fire events
- DPIRD assigned the role and responsibility for the coordination of animal welfare in emergencies
- State Animal Welfare Emergency Coordinator appointed
- State Emergency Animal Welfare Plan
Animal Welfare in Emergencies

Background

WA challenges
- Large land area
- Small population
- Diverse climatic zones
- Full range of natural disasters

WA emergency management
- State Emergency Management Committee
- District Emergency Management Committee
- Local Emergency Management Committee – Local Emergency Management Arrangements

Western Australia’s Emergency Management Districts
Animal Welfare in Emergencies

Shared Responsibility
- Everyone has a responsibility
- Disaster resilient communities
  - Proactive and ‘self’ motivated
  - Industry expertise
  - Government support

- Person in charge of an animal
- Local Emergency Management Arrangements
- Emergency Resource Support Organisation
- State Emergency Animal Welfare Plan
## Animal Welfare in Emergencies

### Prevention and Preparation

- **Legislative requirements**
  - Acts and Regulations
  - Preventative activities
  - Capability and Capacity building
- **Evacuated or not evacuated**
- **Engagement**
  - Stakeholders
  - Community
- **Committee for Animal Welfare in Emergencies**
- **Support planning**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evacuated Animals</th>
<th>Non Evacuated Animals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Availability of transportation support and advice</td>
<td>- Management of displaced and stray animals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Suitability of evacuation centres to cater to persons with animals</td>
<td>- Assessment of impacted animals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Access to information and resources for persons evacuating with animals</td>
<td>- Treatment of impacted animals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Management of displaced animals</td>
<td>- Humane euthanasia and disposal of impacted animals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Recovery requirements: short and long term
Animal Welfare in Emergencies

Response and Recovery

Hazard Management Agency
- Control of response activities
- Consistent and effective communication
- Consideration of shared responsibility

Human life and safety
- Animal welfare vs safety of the community and individuals
- Evacuation planning
  - How early to warn of evacuation to allow residents to prepare animals,
  - Suitability of evacuation routes for volume and type of traffic expected including animal trailers
  - The location of evacuation centres and animal shelters

Integration?

Animal Welfare Considerations?
Animal Welfare in Emergencies

Response and Recovery

Animal welfare
- Hazard controlled, human life no longer at risk
- Recovery phase
- Hazard impacts vs consequence of response
- Limitations of access
- Emotive
- Generation of new impacts to human life and safety

Social and digital support
- Traditional and social media
- Inundation of voluntary support

- Benefit vs hindrance
- Engagement

Return to pre-incident condition

Review
Animal Welfare in Emergencies

Into the future

SEAWP endorsement in December 2018

Integration into emergency management

Build capability and capacity
Thank you
Visit dpird.wa.gov.au
sawec@dpird.wa.gov.au

Important disclaimer
The Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and the State of Western Australia accept no liability whatsoever by reason of negligence or otherwise arising from the use or release of this information or any part of it.

© State of Western Australia 2018