Northern Victorian Emergency Management Cluster

CITY OF GREATER **BENDIGO**

Campaspe Shire Council

CENTRAL GOLDFIELDS SHIRE COUNCIL

LODDON SHIRE

MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE COUNCIL

Emergency Animal Welfare Plan

V1.0 - August 2019

Version Number	Date of Issue	Brief Description of Change	Author
0.1	Sept 2018	Draft V0.1 distributed for comment	MASC – EMC
0.2	April 2019	Draft V0.2 distributed for May Workshop	MASC – EMC
0.3	May 2019	Final Draft V0.3 following Workshop conducted in May	MASC - EMC
1.0	1 August 2019	Adopted by IMEMPC	

Minor administrative updates may be made to this plan without the complete plan having to be endorsed again by IMEMPC. The minor updates may be noted by the IMEMPC and recorded in the Version Control Table.

To make comment on this plan, select the relevant section, note the comment and forward to:

Attn: Municipal Emergency Management Officer

Email:

Mount Alexander Shire Council - info@mountalexander.vic.gov.au

Loddon Shire Council – loddon@loddon.vic.gov.au

Central Goldfields Shire Council – mail@cgoldshire.vic.gov.au

City of Greater Bendigo – enquiries@bendigo.vic.gov.au

Campaspe Shire Council – shire@campaspe.vic.gov.au

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Certificate of Endorsement

Under the provisions of the *Emergency Management Act 1986*, the Northern Victorian Integrated Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (IMEMPC) has facilitated the writing of this Emergency Animal Welfare Plan to complement the Northern Victorian Integrated Municipal Emergency Management Plan (IMEMP).

IMEMPC is a municipal emergency management committee for the shires of Campaspe, Central Goldfields, Loddon, Mount Alexander and City of Greater Bendigo Councils.

This Plan was tabled at a meeting of the IMEMPC and endorsed as a sub-plan of the IMEMP on the following date:

Distribution

A copy of this plan is provided to IMEMPC members. Distribution of the plan through each IMEMPC agency is the responsibility of the Agencies IMEMPC's representative. The current version of this plan is also maintained on the "Crisisworks" platform maintained by each Council for their emergency management. The full version includes some confidential information not for public distribution.

A public copy that does not have confidential information for public distribution is available from the websites at:

www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au

www.loddon.vic.gov.au

www.centralgoldfields.com.au

www.bendigo.vic.gov.au

www.campaspe.vic.gov.au

www.agriculture.vic.gov.au

www.epa.vic.gov.au

Plan Development

The Emergency Animal Welfare Plan is a sub-plan of the Northern Victorian Integrated Municipal Emergency Management Plan (IMEMP) for each of the Northern Victorian Emergency Management Cluster Councils consisting of Mount Alexander Shire, Central Goldfields Shire, Loddon Shire, Campaspe Shire and City of Greater Bendigo Council (NVEMC). It has been developed in consultation between the NVEMC, the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR) and other agencies as required. In developing this plan, reference has been made to the *Victorian Emergency Animal Welfare Plan (Revision 1) (VEAWP).*

Glossary and Acronyms

This plan may use terminology specific to Animal Emergency Welfare Support. Please refer to the VEAWP for a definition.

The plan will in the first instance fully write the title or phrase followed by the acronym. The acronym will be then used throughout the rest of the plan.

Introduction

The NVEMC municipalities are vulnerable to a number of hazards that impact their area and may affect the welfare of domestic animals (pets), livestock and wildlife.

The area of the five municipalities is home to a large number of domestic animals, livestock and wildlife. The area is also traversed by major highways, which carry livestock in large volumes on a daily basis.

This Emergency Animal Welfare Plan complements the IMEMP of each Partner Council.

The focus of this plan is to prescribe the municipal coordination arrangements that exist to support agencies which have a responsibility for emergency animal welfare support, this includes:

1. Domestic Animals (including all pets and companion animals) – Local Government
2. Livestock – Dept. of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR)
3. Wildlife – Dept. of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (DELWP)

Authority to Plan

The Emergency Animal Welfare Support Plan has been produced pursuant to Section 20(1) of the Emergency Management Act 1986.

Scope

The Emergency Animal Welfare Plan refers to the municipal area bounded by the five partner councils and their Municipal Emergency Management Plans (MEMP). The plan refers to domestic –animals (pets), livestock and wildlife located within the municipal boundaries and is based on the principle of 'Shared Responsibility' where the owners of domestic animals and livestock will have arrangements in place before, during and after an emergency to manage the welfare of their animals.

The focus of this plan is in relation to the:

*   Identification and assessment of affected animals in an emergency event

*   Management of displaced animals in an emergency event

*   Veterinary treatment and triage of affected animals

*   Humane destruction and disposal of animals as a result of an emergency event

*   Logistical coordination of goods and services for animals affected by an emergency event

Purpose

The purpose of this animal welfare plan is to assist in the coordination of animal welfare support for domestic animals, livestock and wildlife before, during and after an emergency.

Objectives

The objectives of this plan are to:

- Assess and ensure animal welfare support is considered before, during and after an emergency
- identify resources that are locally available to support this plan
- identify resources available externally that may support this plan
- outline the municipal coordination arrangements for animal welfare support
- provide advice to the community on animal welfare support before, during and after an emergency

Related Documents

This plan should be read with reference to the following documents and legislation:

1. Victorian Emergency Animal Welfare Plan (Revision 1)
2. Northern Victorian Integrated Municipal Emergency Management Plan (version available for each municipality in the cluster)
3. Northern Victorian Cluster - Emergency Relief Centre Standard Operating Procedure (ERC:SOP)
4. Emergency Management Act 1986 & 2013
5. Emergency Management Manual Victoria

Review and Testing

This plan is to be reviewed at every two years or after activation for an emergency event by the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee.

The plan is to be tested by an exercise every two years under the arrangement of the IMEMPC unless activated for an emergency event. Evaluation of the exercise is to be tabled with the IMEMPC for their review.

Information Sharing

At times, animal owner/carer details may need to be provided to animal welfare support agencies to ensure comprehensive assessment of animals impacted by an emergency. This enables the coordinated delivery of services to affected owners/carers and their animals.

Council will coordinate the management of information in accordance with the Information Privacy Act 2000 and relevant policy.

Organisational Roles and Responsibilities

A number of Government Agencies and Non-Government Organisations have a role or responsibility in providing emergency animal welfare support.

Part 7 of the Emergency Management Manual Victoria (EMMV) lists specific animal welfare emergencies e.g. emergency animal disease events and cetacean emergencies. In these cases, the EMMV assigns responsibility for managing an emergency to a specific agency.

In other emergencies listed under the EMMV e.g. bushfire and flood events, impacts on animal welfare may be identical to the broader emergency. In this case there is a controlling agency that requires the support of those Government Agencies and Non-Government Organisations with the requisite knowledge, skills and resources to manage animal welfare support.

The Victorian Emergency Animal Welfare Plan also lists responsibilities of agencies. Below is a summary of those responsibilities. For a full list of responsibilities please view the Victorian Emergency Animal Welfare Plan available at http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/

A summary of agency responsibilities is listed below:

Primary Agencies

The following agencies have a primary role and responsibility in emergency animal welfare support.

Dept. of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR) is the primary agency for livestock and companion animal welfare support services in emergencies. Their responsibilities include:

- provide emergency animal welfare management advice to agencies, organisations and the community
- identifying and assessing impacted animals
- provide advice on treatment, humane destruction or emergency salvage slaughter
- assessing fodder and water needs of impacted animals
- provide wildlife welfare advice to the Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (DELWP)
- coordinating animal welfare groups and volunteers
- assessing and reporting losses and damage
- investigating animal welfare complaints
- liaise with DELWP, Local Governments and animal welfare support agencies to ensure effective allocation of resources

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)

DELWP is the primary agency for wildlife welfare support services and has the following responsibilities:

- communicating wildlife emergency welfare arrangements to relevant stakeholders
- providing advice to response agencies regarding the impact of an emergency on flora and fauna
- developing information for public and media relating to the management of wildlife impacted by the emergency
- ensuring the treatment and care of wildlife is conducted in accordance with relevant legislation
- providing advice on wildlife carcass disposal

Local Government

Prevention and Risk Mitigation

- Ensure emergency animal welfare support arrangements and providers of relevant animal welfare services are detailed within relief and recovery sections of the IMEMP and stored on the Northern Victorian Cluster Contact Database.
- Communicate municipal animal welfare contacts and arrangements to relevant stakeholders

Response
- Liaise with animal welfare agencies and organisations to enable effective and timely delivery of animal welfare support services
- Provide the Incident Controller with relevant information on the management of animals impacted by the emergency

Relief
- Provide assistance with urgent animal welfare needs including housing for displaced animals
- Ensure stray and surrendered animals are can be contained within an appropriate facility
- Referral of animal welfare needs to relevant support organisations
- Provide a point of contact for agencies and organisations in relation to emergency animal welfare support issues
- Create provisions to manage animals presenting at emergency relief centres to include registration, treatment and housing requirements or, advise owners of alternative arrangements when animals are unable to be housed on site.

Recovery
- Work with DJPR to assist in ongoing animal welfare recovery within the municipality
- Coordinate recovery services for animal owners and carers

Support Agencies/Organisations

There are a number of external agencies and suppliers who may provide emergency animal welfare support services depending on the emergency location and resource capacity. DJPR is responsible for monitoring the emergency event and consulting with the Australian Veterinary Association and RSPCA when local resources are exhausted.

A list of other support agencies can be found at
http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/emergencies/response/victorian-emergency-animal-welfare-plan

Preparedness Arrangements

Each of the Partner Councils prepares for emergency animal welfare support services through the development of this plan and the following activities.

Northern Victorian Integrated Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (IMEMPC)

Animal emergency welfare support services will be represented by DJPR, DELWP and Council at IMEMPC meetings as required.

The IMEMPC facilitates the development and review of this Animal Emergency Welfare Support plan that supports their Municipal Emergency Management Plan.

The IMEMPC will ensure that animal emergency welfare support will be included in appropriate exercises to test and train for the activation of this plan.

Training

The NVEMC facilitate appropriate training for Council Staff who may be involved in animal emergency welfare support activities.

Council Rangers have specific accreditations required to manage animals. These requirements are found under and may include:

- Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals Act 1986 & Regulations 2008 - Authorisation
- Domestic Animals Act 1994 & Regulations 2015 - Authorisation
- First Aid
- Victorian Firearms Long Arm Licence **(Loddon and Central Goldfields Shires only)**
- Firearms Safety Course **(Loddon and Central Goldfields Shires only)**
- Bolt gun safety training **(City of Greater Bendigo and Campaspe only)**
- Basic Wildlife Awareness
- Impoundment of Livestock Act 1994 & Regulations 2008 – Authorisation

Resource sharing

Details on resource sharing arrangements between the NVEMC Councils can be located in Section 5. of the IMEMP.

Animal Shelters and Pounds

There are a number of animal shelters and pounds across the cluster councils as listed in NVEMC contact database and Crisisworks. Each centre is expected to have an emergency management plan in place for the management of animals. Centres may also require assistance or be able to provide assistance during an emergency.

Deceased Animal Disposal Sites

The municipality is responsible for the coordination of clean-up activities in an emergency, including the disposal of dead animals.

DJPR provides advice and will liaise with each municipality regarding the disposal of dead animals, including location, type and number of animals to be disposed. The EPA will ensure that the appropriate disposal methods are adopted for wastes resulting from response activities.

For biosecurity purposes, it is preferable to dispose of diseased animals and contaminated materials on the affected property. Where this is not practically possible, other options should be determined by DJPR, in conjunction with the EPA.

For wildlife, where a response is based on the Bushfire Protocols, it is the responsibility of the triage veterinarian to work with the each municipality to oversee the disposal of carcasses of euthanased wildlife.

DJPR has a list of licensed landfill sites that may take animal carcasses across the State. Other sites may be identified and assessed in consultation between the Environmental Health Officer (EHO) from the municipality where the site is located and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) before an emergency and listed in this plan as appropriate. Refer to Appendix D.

Response Arrangements

In the event of an emergency, respective animal emergency welfare support responsibilities will be activated in accordance with the classification given to the event e.g. Level 1, 2 or 3.

Where an emergency impacts animals, an appointed DJPR Animal Welfare Liaison Officer will interact with the MERO, or their delegate, to ensure animal welfare arrangements are in place that allow effective management and referral of animal welfare needs, as well as distribution of relevant public information.

DJPR will consider the following matters when determining their control arrangements:

- Number of stock and domestic pets likely to be involved;
- Operation of registration and transport systems;
- Operation of destruction and disposal systems;
- Public information and advice;
- Communication with the public, authorities and individuals;
- Any future management issues.

Activation of the Plan

The plan may be activated:

- At the request of DJPR
- At the request of a Control agency
- At the request of each Council based on information received from the incident controller

The response will be elevated depending on the:

- Impact of the incident
- Information
- Assessments made

Plan Implementation

Issues for DJPR, MERO and Local Laws Coordinator (or equivalent) to consider when implementing the Plan are:

1. Availability and suitability of facilities for assessment, shelter and feeding of domestic pets.
2. Availability and suitability of facilities for assessment, containment and feeding of livestock.
3. Availability and suitability of facilities for the management and welfare of wildlife.
4. Availability and suitability of carcass disposal methods.
5. Current stock processing rates through local and neighbouring abattoirs, knackeries and rendering plants.
6. Current stock movements into and out of the district (agistment, sale, export).
7. Available feed and water supplies in the district.
8. Available resources for transportation of domestic pets and livestock to other facilities

When the Plan is implemented, Council will be responsible for:

1.   Monitoring capacity to house and feed domestic pets.

2.   Sourcing in conjunction with DJPR shelter and feed for affected domestic pets.

3.   Liaising with the landfill operators in relation to its capacity as a regional disposal site.

4.   Sourcing contractors, in conjunction with DJPR, to carry out stock disposal.

5.   Ensure all communications regarding relief centres includes information about animal relief

The MERO and Local Laws Coordinator (or equivalent) will liaise with the Council CEO and report on Councils involvement during all stages.

Stand Still Situation

This situation could occur when movement of livestock is stopped, sometimes with little warning, and it could occur on a day when livestock is already at Livestock Exchanges, or other similar facilities.

A "Standstill" will be triggered by the National Management Group acting on the advice of the Consultative Committee on Emergency Animal Diseases. A decision to ease, lift or extend the standstill will be based on risk assessment and the known epidemiology of the outbreak.

Stock will remain at their current location and will not be moved until the threat has passed. This is determined by DJPR.

For stock on road situations, all current livestock transport journeys must be completed within four hours of the declaration of a standstill. If a current journey cannot be completed within four hours of the declaration, or originated from another state or territory, or the intended destination was interstate, the transporter must pull up when and where safe to do so and contact the Attwood State Biosecurity Operations Centre (03 92174200 or Victorian Emergency Hotline Ph. 1800 226 226) and seek instructions to determine a suitable destination to unload the livestock, before any further movement can be undertaken.

Local Saleyards Operational Policy Manuals should be referenced to ensure compliance with the AUSVETPLAN guidelines, which deals with management of exotic diseases and holding livestock in the yards, feed etc.

Processing Animals

An accurate record of each animal that is presented is extremely important. At least one person should be designated to complete paperwork, photograph and put identification on each animal presented.

This data is to be transferred into a central data base to ensure that animal owners have one reliable source of information when trying to locate an animal. The importance of this system should be communicated to other shelters and animal businesses that may receive animals directly from the public.

Appendix F: Animal Registration Form Template provides a template of an Animal Registration Form.

Emergency Animal Accommodation

Accommodating animals in emergency housing is a last resort. The first option should always be with family or friends outside the affected area that can better provide for animals. If there is no feasible pet friendly accommodation, boarding kennels and animal shelters may be available and appropriate.

Wildlife should be transferred to authorised wildlife carers located in a safe area. Appendix E: Animal Accommodation a list of available short term housing options in each municipality can be found on the NVEMC Contact Database and Crisisworks systems

Ideally, animals should not be kept at the Emergency Relief Centre or in emergency accommodation or shelters for more than three days.

Emergency accommodation should provide the following:

- Animal admission and identification record keeping
- Secure and functional housing
- Food and water
- Identifying and contacting owners (lost and found registers)
- Staff and public health and safety

Animals with no identified owners

Animals with no identified owner will be handled according to legal requirements and the municipality's stray animal's policy or procedure. Animals presenting with an owner can be housed under the following conditions:

- All animals are held at the owners risk
- Owners are required to feed the animal
- Water will be provided for the animals
- Housing is only short term. Animals that remain at the shelter after three days may be processed as unowned animals.
- Animals must be confined or on leash at all times
- Animals with special needs will need to be managed by the owner to ensure they do not cause harm or discomfort to other animals
- Animals must not be moved from their designated crate/pen without notification to the person in charge of the animal emergency housing
- Animals that are not well or have an infectious disease will be managed on a case by case basis. Suitable alternative arrangements for accommodation will be made; this will be done to protect the health of other animals in a facility.

Access for owners/carers of pets in alternative shelter options away from them will be managed according to the incident and resource capacity at the time.

Humane Destruction

It is the responsibility of the person in charge of animals to arrange for the humane destruction or salvage slaughter of impacted animals where the animals will continue to suffer if they remain alive, or where the animals have little or no chance of survival.

DJPR will assist in the humane destruction or salvage slaughter of animals when the person in charge cannot perform the necessary actions to alleviate the suffering of their animals. This assistance may include referral to Veterinarians, DELWP or the RSPCA.

Wherever possible, destruction activities will take place in consultation with the person in charge of affected animals. In situations where owners cannot be found, indemnity for immediate destruction in their absence is provided by Section 24 (1)(b)(i) of POCTA Act 1986.

In case of wildlife, the triage veterinarian is responsible for assessing the need for euthanasia. While it is prohibited to destroy native wildlife under the Wildlife Act, registered veterinary practitioners and appropriately accredited officers and volunteers who destroy wildlife in accordance with POCTA are exempt.

Methods of destruction of animals must be consistent with the relevant Code of Practice, such as the Codes of Accepted Farming Practice for the Welfare of Animals (species specific in the case of livestock), Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses and Code of Practice for the Welfare of Wildlife during Rehabilitation.

The following municipalities have the training and equipment to assist with animal destruction subject to additional requirements:

Council	Equipment
Mount Alexander Shire Council	N/A
Loddon Shire Council	Council owned .22 calibre rifle
Central Goldfields Shire Council	Council owned .22 calibre rifle
Campaspe Shire Council	Bolt gun
City of Greater Bendigo	Bolt gun

Disposal of Dead Animals

Due to potential health hazards, timely disposal of animal carcasses is critical. A number of on-farm and off-farm options exist for the disposal of dead animals resulting from an emergency, including licensed landfills, knackeries and rendering facilities and high temperature incineration. Disposal on private land and government owned sites, such as unlicensed or decommissioned landfill sites, may be allowed subject to section 30A (Environment Protection Act) approval from EPA and will require the development of a site management plan.

DJPR is the provider of advice and liaise with each municipality regarding the disposal of dead animals, including location, type and number of animals to be disposed. The EPA will ensure that the appropriate disposal methods are adopted for wastes resulting from response activities. Information on this can be found at

https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/our-work/publications/publication/2009/june/iwrg641

For wildlife, where a response is based on the Bushfire Protocols, it is the responsibility of the triage veterinarian to work with each municipality to oversee the disposal of carcasses of euthanised wildlife.

Briefing and Debriefing

Council will provide regular internal briefings to all staff involved in an emergency; these will be coordinated through the MERO and MRM. Animal welfare issues will be discussed at all briefings.

A debrief will be held at the conclusion of an emergency event. Staff involved in an emergency will be expected to attend the debrief session and provide input as to what worked well and what could be improved.

For detailed information on emergency briefings and debriefing procedures refer to the Integrated Municipal Emergency Management Plan (IMEMP).

Relief Arrangements

Each NVEMC Council is responsible for coordinating relief arrangements within their municipality. Relief arrangements are detailed in this plan and the Municipal Emergency Relief and Recovery Plan.

Emergency Relief Centre Arrangements

Evacuated households will bring their animals with them as they are often viewed as a member of their family. History has shown the presence of pets inside the ERC can be disruptive and may present a public health risk. Provision for the welfare of pets outside the ERC is to be managed by the Council Rangers, but responsibility for the control and welfare of the animals rests with the owner.

If there is adequate room animals may remain at the Relief Centre on a temporary basis (where possible, three days maximum) and should be tethered or in a cage. A sheltered site should be designated for animals.

Any animal deemed to be unsafe or a threat to others must be tethered and attended to by the owner as per legal requirements. Council recommends that people who are displaced and attending the Relief Centre with pet's (other than registered assistance animal such as a guide dog) should first approach their friends and family to house their animal.

As a guide ERC Officers should consider:

- Provision of food and water for animals
- Separation of animals.

Assistance animals

Under Section 9(2) of the Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992, guide assistance dogs are allowed into and are able to stay in emergency relief centres.

Recovery Arrangements

Longer term animal welfare will be documented and addressed through the development of the Municipal Recovery Plan for the emergency event.

Donations

Donations of money, goods and services may be made during an emergency event to assist in emergency animal welfare support. This plan details how these donations may be managed. (Reference is made to the National Guidelines for Managing Donated Goods 2011).

It is the preference that any requests for donations made by a Municipal Recovery Committee is for financial donations only.

Food Items

The MRM will liaise with local organisations to assist in the coordination of pet food donations.

The Victorian Farmers Federation may be activated to coordinate fodder distribution in large events in consultation with the MRM. Where they are not activated, the MRM will work with relevant agencies to coordinate distribution.

Non-Food Items

The management of these items will be coordinated by the MRM who may delegate responsibility to an appropriate organisation.

Volunteers

In the context of this plan, volunteers who assist in emergency animal welfare support activities are members of organisations that are accredited to perform work in this area and have the appropriate management structure and training in place for their personnel.

Spontaneous volunteers are to be acknowledged and referred to appropriate organisations that may be able to incorporate them into their activities.

There may be no opportunity to utilise the services of a spontaneous volunteer due to:

- The specialised nature of the work
- Limited resources to equip a spontaneous volunteer e.g. safety equipment
- Limited management structures to supervise spontaneous volunteers
- Sufficient resources are already employed to manage the work load

The MRM will coordinate acknowledgement of the offer of service from spontaneous volunteers in an appropriate manner.

Appendix A: Local Contact Information for Emergency Animal Welfare Support

The Northern Victorian Emergency Management Cluster contacts, suppliers and facilities details are stored within **Crisisworks** https://nvc.crisisworks.com/public

Appendix B: State-Wide Contact Information for Emergency Animal Welfare Support

Consult DEJTR for advice where appropriate on who to contact in the emergency event.

ORGANISATION	WEBSITE
Australasian Animal Record (microchips)	www.aar.org.au
Australian Veterinary Association	www.ava.org.au
Cat Protection Society of Victoria	www.catprotection.com.au
Central Animal Records (microchips) (Requires Ranger to access)	www.car.com.au
Dept. of Health &Human Services (DHHS)	www.dhhs.vic.gov.au
Dept. Economic Development, Jobs, Transport & Resources (DEDJTR)	www.agriculture.vic.gov.au
Dept. of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (DELWP)	www.delwp.vic.gov.au
Dogs Victoria	www.dogsvictoria.org.au
Feline Control Council	www.hotkey.net.au/~fccvic
Ferret Rescue	www.vicferrets.org.au
Governing Council of Cat Fancy	www.cats.org.au
Help for Wildlife	www.helpforwildlife.org.au
National Pet Register (microchips) Requires Ranger to access	www.petregister.com.au
Petcare Information and Advisory Service	www.petnet.com.au
Petsafe	www.petsafe.com.au
Project Hope Horse Welfare Australia Inc.	www.phhwv.org.au
Red Cross	www.redcross.org.au
RSPCA	www.rspcavic.org
The Lost Dogs Home	www.dogshome.com
VicRoads	www.vicroads.vic.gov.au
Victorian Animal Aid Trust	www.vaat.org.au
Victorian Bushfire Information Line	www.emergency.vic.gov.au
Victorian Farmers Federation	www.vff.org.au
Wildlife Victoria	www.wildlifevictoria.org.au
Zoos Victoria	www.zoo.org.au

Appendix C: Animal Pounds and Shelters

The Northern Victorian Emergency Management Cluster contacts, suppliers and facilities details are stored within **Crisisworks** https://nvc.crisisworks.com/public

Appendix D: Stock Disposal Sites

The Northern Victorian Emergency Management Cluster contacts, suppliers and facilities details are stored within **Crisisworks** https://nvc.crisisworks.com/public

Appendix E: Animal Accommodation Requirements

Due to the increased stress levels amongst animals during an emergency, all possible effort must be undertaken to minimise its effects.

- Predator and prey species should be kept as separate as possible
- Animals should be inspected ideally every four hours to ensure their environment is adequate to maintain their health
- If any animal appears sick, injured or its behaviour has changed it has to be reported to the manager as soon as possible
- Animals in the relief centre should be provided with food in sufficient quantity and nutritional quality to meet the daily requirements for the condition and size of the animals
- Food and water containers should be of a suitable type for the animal and should not easily spill
- Animals should have access to water at all times

Dogs

- Dogs should be walked daily
- Poo bags and garbage bins should be readily available
- If dogs that have been declared menacing, dangerous or of a restricted breed are presented at the relief centre, they must wear a muzzle and their specified collar and be restrained on a secure leash until alternate suitable housing can be arranged
- Further information on the care of dogs can be found in the "Code of practice for the private keeping of dogs" and "Code of practice for the management of dogs and cats in shelters and pounds"

Cats

- Cages need to be large enough to allow for a sleeping area, water container and a litter tray
- Cats should be provided with clean litter every day and litter trays should be disinfected between each use
- Further information on the care of cats can be found in the "Code of practice for the private keeping of cats" and "Code of practice for the management of dogs and cats in shelters and pounds"

Small Pets

A variety of small pets such as rabbits, guinea pigs, rats, mice or reptiles are likely to arrive at relief centres. These will hopefully arrive in cages suitable for housing and confinement.

Further information on the care of small pets can be found in Codes of Practice or DJPR information sheets.

Birds

- Birds are particularly susceptible to stress
- Perches must be provided for birds that rest by perching. The perches must be of sufficient diameter to allow the bird to maintain a firm grip. There must be sufficient perch space for all birds in a container to perch comfortably at the same time
- Bird cages must be covered or kept in a darkened room at night to enable them to get appropriate rest
- Further information on the care of birds can be found in the "Code of practice for the housing of caged birds"

Livestock

In most large emergency situations DJPR will establish its own Incident Management Team to coordinate field operations relating to fire affected agricultural properties.

People transporting large livestock to an ERC or an emergency shelter should be directed to the nearest large, safe venue for holding them. Possible sites may include show grounds, saleyards, empty feedlots and confinement buildings with adequate ventilation, airports, airplane hangars, livestock auction markets and fenced pasture.

Further information on the care of livestock can be found in the "Codes of accepted farming practice".

Wildlife

Wildlife requires special housing and care. DELWP is the primary support agency for the welfare of wildlife. If wildlife is presented at the relief centre advice should be sought from DELWP on the appropriate course of action regardless of whether it is owned or wild.

Information on the care of wildlife can be found in the "Code of practice for the welfare of wildlife during rehabilitation".

Horses

Horses can be adequately housed for a short time on an oval or in a paddock as long as there is adequate fencing, water and food and any pasture is fit for horse consumption.

Horses that are unfamiliar to each other should not be housed adjacent to each other as they may bite or kick each other through fencing. Stallions will require specialist fencing and should be housed separately from other animals.

Further information on the care of horses can be found in the "Code of practice for the welfare of horses".

Appendix F: Animal Registration Form

Part A: OWNER DETAILS			
Name:		Telephone:	
Address:		Mobile:	
Alternative contact:			
Current Veterinarian:			

Part B: ANIMAL DETAILS								
No.	Name	Type	Breed	Description (colour / sex)	Collar (Y/N)	Identification (tag / microchip)	Identification Number	Special needs/comments (diet/medication/history/ temperament/ obvious pre-existing condition)
1								
2								
3								
4								
Animals received from:				Date:				Signature:

Part C: EMERGENCY HOUSING CONTACT DETAILS			
Name:		Telephone:	
Address animals located:		Mobile:	

Part D: ANIMAL RELOCATIONS DETAILS			
Relocated to:		Telephone:	
Address:		Mobile:	
Received by:		Date:		Signature:	

Part E: RETURN OR COLLECTION DETAILS			
Name:		Telephone:	
Address:		Mobile:	
Received by:		Date:		Signature:	

Animal Admission Owner Information Sheet (template)

Welcome to the Emergency Relief Centre. We hope your stay here will be as short and as comfortable as possible. The (ENTER your council name) has arranged emergency shelter and welfare for pets and companion animals evacuated as part of this emergency.

What you may be required to do

- Feed and exercise your animal.

- Keep your animal confined, tethered or on a leash at all times.

- Do not let your animal cause harm or discomfort to people or other animals.

- Ask the person in charge of the animal area before you move your animal from their crate/pen.

- Understand that housing animals at the Emergency Relief Centre is only short term and you should discuss other options with the Animal Team Leader in charge.

- Understand that animals are held at the ERC at your risk.

- Discuss with our staff if you have any concerns about your animal.

- We are here to help and assist; however, there are many demands on our staff so please be a little patient. We will do our very best to help.

What we may do

- Feed and exercise your animal if you are unable to do so.

- Provide fresh water for your animal.

- Secure your animal and provide the best care we can.

- End of Document -

Local Laws Team

The Local Laws Team will assist in implementing the Emergency Animal Welfare plan. Their role may include the following:

1. Receiving, recording and distributing information on emergency animal welfare support issues
2. Identify and assess emergency animal welfare risks
3. Advise and consult with the MERO and MRM on emergency animal welfare support
4. Liaise with and coordinate the distribution of additional resources from animal welfare support agencies
5. Prioritise animal welfare operational activities
6. Attend community recovery meetings as required