



AEIMNZ CONFERENCE 2023

# ANIMAL RESCUE FIRST RESPONDERS THE CONSEQUENCES OF DEPLOYMENT

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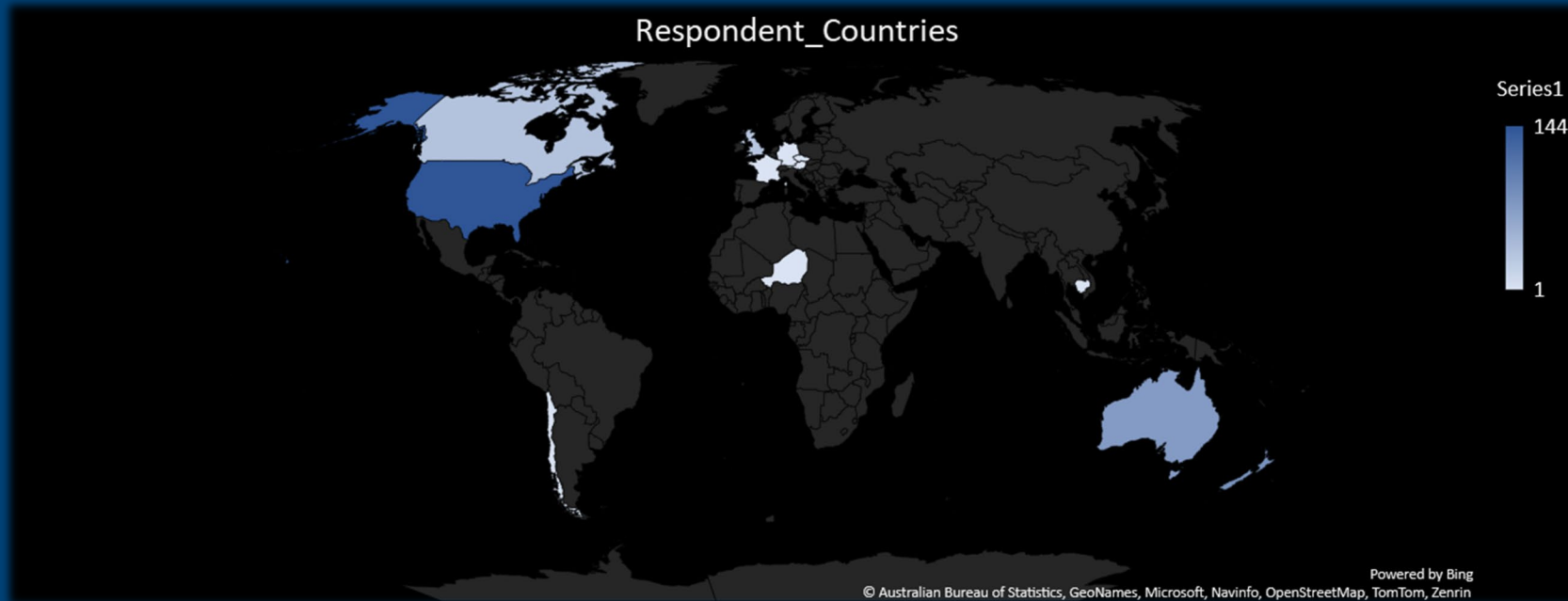
ANIMAL RESCUE FIRST RESPONDERS  
THE CONSEQUENCES OF DEPLOYMENT

- **Are the risks/hazards in animal rescue different to human response?**
  - **Animal perceives the responder as a threat and wants to evade control.**
  - **Welfare: we might have to consider recovery other than rescue – euthanasia may be the best option.**
  - **More constraints due to finances.**
  - **Human-animal bond.**

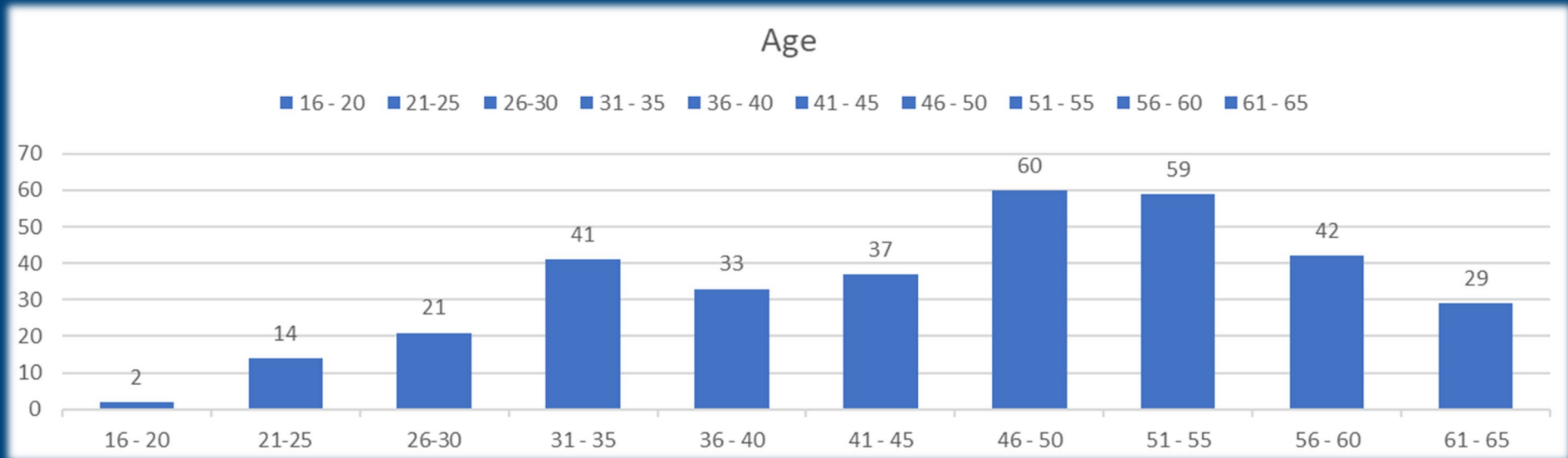
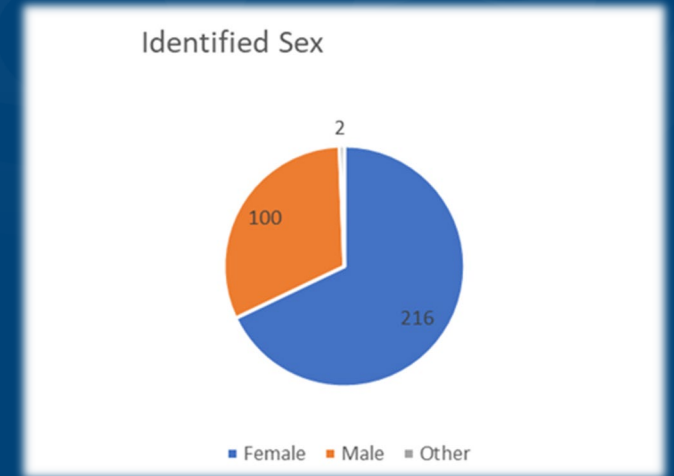
- Research was undertaken by S. De Grey (as part of his MVSc)
- Prof C. Riley, an equine surgeon and animal first responder
- Dr Kirrilly Thompson, a cultural anthropologist
- Dr Michelle MacArthur a practising clinical psychologist
- Dr Hayley Squance, founder of MU VERT and Manager of BML Consulting Ltd
- Dr Naomi Cogger



- Online survey on the Qualtrics platform with Massey University Human Ethics approval
- Published worldwide to English Speaking Countries using leaders in the field and a snowballing technique



# Who responded to the survey?





### Occupation

self employed business owner Risk Assessment Specialist Insurance  
 Public Sector Employee Retired from veterinary field  
 Professor Veterinary Technician program Registered Veterinary Nurse  
 operational manager of flowerbulb company Non profit director SES Volunteer  
 non profit consulting grant research proposal writing manufacturing Licensed and boarded VTS LAIM veterinary technician  
 Police Officer retired Humane Advocate Officer RSPCA Insurance Health Benefits Adviser  
 RSPCA Chief Inspector Executive Director Homemaker Engineer House Keeper Social Work  
 Equine Vet Equipment operator Emergency Management Specialist Regional Veterinarian  
 Equine Reproductive Technician education about large animal rescue Fire Training Officer  
 Dog trainer business owner dog services and university prof Fire Fighter Lecturer Security  
 Self employed Career Firefighter Customer service manager Director of Disaster Relief Programme Manager  
 Optometrist Assistant Rn Q3 1 Film Editor consultant on workplace stress primarily in healthcare retired veterinarian  
 Research engineer Business support Community Development Office Equine Professional Retired Customer Support  
 Equestrian Coach Emergency Manager Business Services Coordinator Crew Manager Police Officer  
 managa horse training facility Directeur zoo Cruelty Investigator Grant seeker for non profits  
 Social worker Contractor volunteer fire and rescue Clerk City Planner Rancher herpetologist  
 Career Paramedic who founded operates a 501c3 equine technical rescue service and team of volunteers Plant manager  
 RSPCA Inspector Class 1 waste water treatment operator Auxiliary officer Dog shelter Supervisor Office Manager  
 outdoor pursuits instructor Animal shelter manager artist Area manager City Planner Rancher herpetologist  
 Equine veterinarian Driver Animal Rescue inactive licensed nurse District Veterinarian Retired Audiologist  
 Equine ambulance attendant Finance carer designer District Veterinarian Retired Audiologist  
 Intake manager farmer Animal Rescue Specialist Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service Buffalo ranch manager Professional Responder  
 Critter Catchers Humane solutions to wildlife problems Cattle industry Painter Animal Welfare Inspector Laboratory Director  
 Emergency Services ECC vet Agricultural Contractor Animal rescue shelter owner Bartender Mental Health Therapist  
 Project Manager Fire officer Communications Business architect Electronic Technician Housewife Retired Fire Medic  
 Horse breeder Educator Animal control officer EMT Deputy Principal Advisor Emergency management officer  
 Manager Fire Rescue Administration Animal welfare officer Bereavement counselor Médico Veterinario  
 Scientist Health Worker Caregiver Animal welfare officer for rspca Dental Hygienist Government adviser  
 Director Animal Crimes Caregiver Animal cruelty investigator Admin Fire protection Pet groomer  
 Program coordinator House Mover assistant manager Accountant EMT Paramedic Real Estate  
 Lic Vet Tech Computer Technician Communications Manager Accountant EMT Paramedic Real Estate  
 selling new homes Director of Canine Operations Behavior Analyst Fireman Firefighter Medical Billing  
 Retired military Firefighte Animal welfare consultant Account Executive Firefighter EMT  
 Administrative Assistant OSPCA 501 c 3 horse rescue founder and president Firefighter EMT  
 Signmaker equine dentist Court Clerk Accounting District Court Clerk Barn Manager forklift driver  
 Prison Officer Broadcast technician Banker Emergency management advisor Geospatial engineer  
 Massage Therapist Customers service Equine First Aid Instructor retired cosmetologist  
 non profit management Fire Risk Management Officer Equine healthcare provider Program specialist  
 Radiation therapist Retired Government Veterinarian Food technologist Large Animal Vet Technician  
 Kennel Technician Horse trainer Fund Development  
 Retired EMT Landlord I own and manage a veterinary hospital  
 Retired Sales Manager Incident Response officer Pharmacist PhD Student  
 Ranger rspca inspector mental health counselor Senior Firefighter  
 pensioner wildlife shelter volunteer  
 PM Global Financial Process Systems Transition Transformation  
 Retired college administrator  
 RSPCA Inspector National Water Rescue and Large Animal rescue Coordinator

### Team

WildCare  
 Spca national rescue unit Was NZRU now closed Animal evac NZ  
 Ontario Mounted Special Services Unit SPCA NZ National Rescue Unit  
 Oklahoma Large Animal First Responders Inc SA Veterinary Emergency Management  
 Oklahoma Large Animal First Responders PED UDEC Pet Rescue and Reunification  
 Oiled Wildlife Response team NSW Department of Primary Industries  
 Mercer County Animal Response Team an affiliate of the Pennsylvania State Animal Response Team  
 Massey University Veterinary Emergency Response Team Shropshire Fire Rescue Service  
 Korras Animal Relief Effort www facebook com korrares Project Jonah  
 Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre and Society for the Preservation of Raptors  
 NSW Rural Fire Service HSUS AHA Local horse rescue INDART VERT NZRT 16  
 FENZ ST JOHN Mississippi Horse Rescue GG Wildlife Rescue Inc  
 FENZ PASART Freiwillige Feuerwehr Horse Haven of Tennessee  
 NSW State Emergency Service Fire and emergency nz  
 Fire and Emergency New Zealand FEMA USAR Macclesfield Fire Brigade  
 Fire Emergency NZ FAWNA Inc Local Land Services RSPCA QLD  
 Fire and Emergency Horse Haven of TN Go Team  
 Washington State Animal Response Team govt Cow shelters in India FEMA Urban Search and Rescue  
 Pennsylvania State Animal Response Team CARDA Code 3 DART Horse Haven GO Team SPCA NRU  
 Patriot Equine Technical Rescye none Cajun navy Samaritan purse horse relief  
 Butler County Animal Response Team Kansas Animal Response Team Code 3 Associates  
 Mercer County Animal Response Team Battery Park City CERT Animal Ddaster Relief Coalition City Critters  
 SPCA NZ SES Aust Horse Haven of TN ASPCA FIR team Chittering Wildlife EASE WA StreetVet  
 Msar cart dart cert sar FI SARC ASPCA Outlaw Animal Rescue Equi Health Canada Rspca  
 San Diego Humane Society ASPCA HSUS Outlaw Animal Rescue IFAW ASPCA Pilbara Wildlife carer association  
 Wildlife Care WA Fire an emergency new Zealand CFA CFRS MSPCA at Newins Farm RNZSPCA  
 Animal Response Foundation mine American Humane Humane Society of Missouri Code 3 associate  
 SPCA New Zealand Friends United in Rescue FEMA US R Barta WIRES Animal Evac NZ Rescue 3 Europe  
 Rural Fire Service Queensland Love4Satos CTSART Four Paws International Animal Evac NZ Rescue 3 Europe  
 Piedmont Emergency Animal Response Team NVADG Chico Ca Animal Disaster Relief Coalition EARS Forgotten Dogs of the 5th Ward ARC  
 Perth Wildlife Rescue Network MU VERT LADC Large Animal Disaster Committee Broward County Florida  
 AnimalEVAC NZ CCEHC AaH LRTC N A Psart TLAER  
 Project Jonah NZ non because St Johns County in Florida would not have one here  
 Southwest Washington large animal rescue HUHA Animal evac American Humane NVRT and ASPCA FIR  
 DEFRA Asset Flood response Dept Fire Emergency Services WA  
 SPCA NZ Emergency Animal Response Team Atlantic NapaCART Community Animal Response Team  
 FAWNA Inc Society for the Preservation of Raptors the Western Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Council Inc  
 VFD County AC Heet of SLO Santa Barbara equine Evac Project Jonah Animal Evac NZ  
 Local Labd Services Volunteer Rescue Association Rural Fire Service Project Jonah leopard seals org  
 Weld County Animal Response Team North Valley Animal Disaster Group Rescue 3 Europe  
 North Valley Animal Disaster Group NVADG Napa CART Lake County Animal Evacuation and Protection LEAP  
 Pilbara Wildlife Carers Association SES State Emergency Service  
 Project Jonah NZ Animal Evac NZ Chch Bull Breed Rescue volunteer at Vet Clinics in my hometown  
 Saratoga County Animal Response Team  
 State Emergency Service WLAER  
 Surrey Fir and Rescue

Rescue Training

Animal Rescue Training

Other

TLAER Wildlife Marine Rescue  
Human First Aid Rescue  
Animal First Aid Rescue  
SA Technical Rescue  
Wildlife Land Rescue

Disaster Training

Military Emergency Response Disaster Response Training

Disaster Coms  
Disaster Management  
Stress Mitigation or support  
Other



- The event recalled:





- The survey was subjective and self-reported
- Impact of Events Scale-Revised used as a validated tool

**IMPACT OF EVENT SCALE-REVISED**

**Daniel S. Weiss, PhD & Charles R. Marmar, MD**

Instructions: Below is a list of difficulties people sometimes have after stressful life events.

Please read each item and then indicate how distressing each difficulty has been for you DURING THE PAST SEVEN DAYS with respect to \_\_\_\_\_, how much were you distressed or bothered by these difficulties?

Not at all=0, Little bit =1, Moderately=2, Quite a bit = 3, Extremely= 4

Sr.No	Statement	0	1	2	3	4
1.	Any reminder brought back feelings about it					
2.	I had trouble staying asleep.					
3.	Other things kept making me think about it.					
4.	I felt irritable and angry.					
5.	I avoided letting myself get upset when I thought about it or was reminded of it.					
6.	I thought about it when I didn't mean to					
7.	I felt as if it hadn't happened or wasn't real					
8.	I stayed away from reminders about it.					
9.	Pictures about it popped into my mind.					
10.	I was jumpy and easily startled.					
11.	I tried not to think about it.					
12.	I was aware that I still had a lot of feelings about it, but I didn't deal with them.					
13.	My feelings about it were kind of numb.					
14.	I found myself acting or feeling like I was back at that time.					
15.	I had trouble falling asleep.					
16.	I had waves of strong feelings about it.					
17.	I tried to remove it from my memory.					
18.	I had trouble concentrating.					
19.	Reminders of it caused me to have physical reactions, such as sweating, trouble breathing.					
20.	I had dreams about it.					
21.	I felt watchful and on-guard.					
22.	I tried not to talk about it.					

Avoidance Subscale = mean of items 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 17, 22

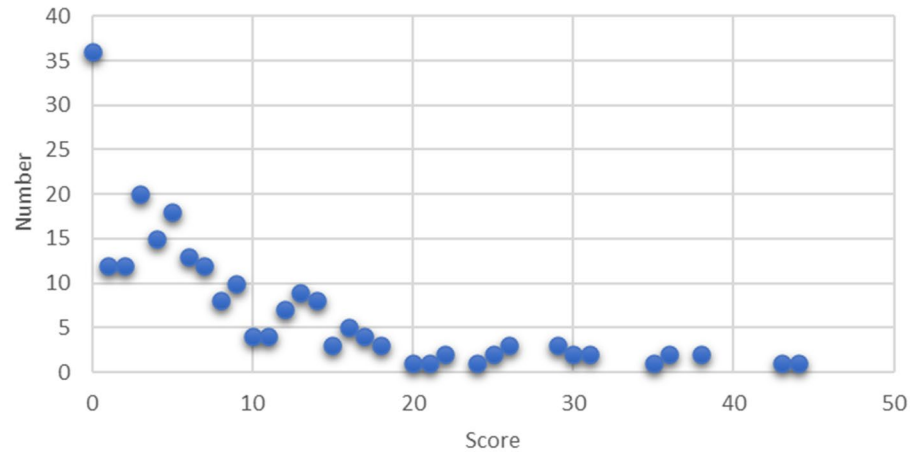
Intrusion Subscale = mean of items 1, 2, 3, 6, 9, 16, 20

Hyper arousal Subscale = mean of items 4, 10, 14, 15, 18, 19, 21

Note: The IES-R is not a diagnostic or screening tool for PTSD; rather, it relies on a patient's own report of symptoms and is used to gauge response no sooner than two weeks after a traumatic event, as well as to evaluate recovery.

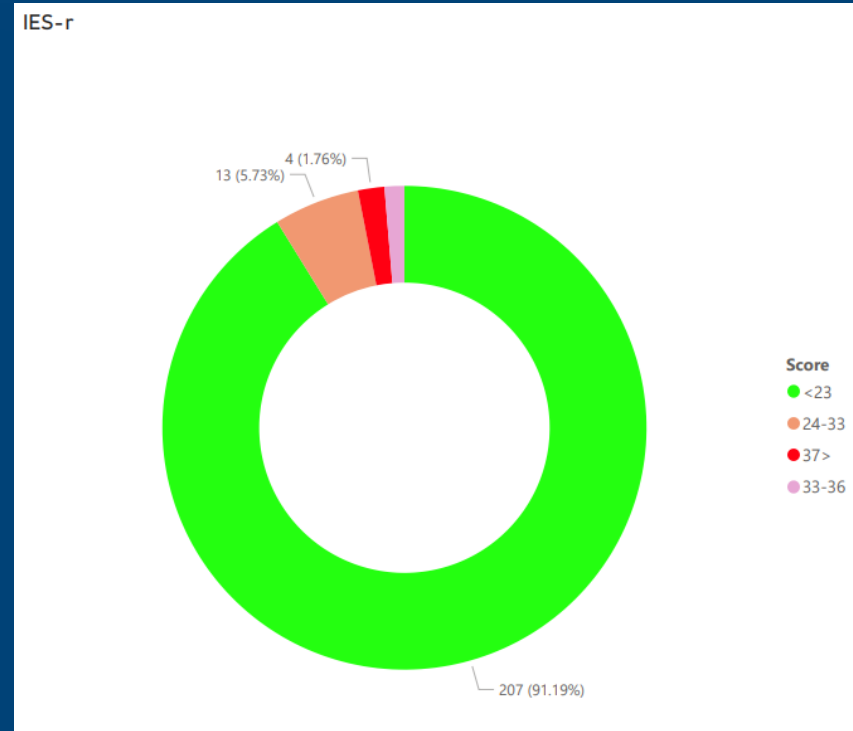


### Impact of Events - revised



### IES-r score

- >24 PTSD is a clinical concern
- >33 probable 'diagnoses' of PTSD
- >37 risk of long-term physical effects!



Score	Number
0	36
1	12
2	12
3	20
4	15
5	18
6	13
7	12
8	8
9	10
10	4
11	4
12	7
13	9
14	8
15	3
16	5
17	4
18	3
20	1
21	1
22	2
24	1
25	2
26	3
29	3
30	2
31	2
35	1
36	2
38	2
43	1
44	1

## How did the first responder remember this event?

Responder\_recollection



- Somewhat positive
- Highly positive
- Highly negative
- Neither positive nor negative
- Somewhat negative

First Responders in Animal Rescue are at risk of psychological effects while deployed!

So what are we going to do about it?





## Thank you

Chris Riley, Janis Bridges (statistical support), Rebecca Husted & Cynthia Otto (USA), Naomi Cogger, Gina Kemp & Steve Glassy (NZ), MaryAnne Leighton (Aust), Gayle Ecker (Canada) & Jim Green (UK), AEIMN ANZ















