



Animal Emergency Incident Management Network  
(Australia & New Zealand)



## Summary of whiteboard and group notes

6 May 2022

## Whiteboard Summary

- Training elective rotation students and staff in large animal rescue
- Share the awareness
- To ring 000 and someone who is properly trained turns up
- Important for us to continue relationships to improve accredited training
- Grow the network
- Improve collaboration
- Don't allow jurisdictional competitiveness to creep into the sector
- Become a recognised LAR response organisation in CFA
- Interested in the human-animal bond, One Health/One Welfare aspects of animals in disasters
- Priority: Enabling people to take their companion animals to safer place when evacuating
- Building the capacity of evacuation shelters to develop contingency plans to accommodate people with companion animal pets
- NSW AASFA sub-plan changed to reflect reality around animal rescue in natural disasters and understanding our role and responsibilities in emergency management and maintaining training and skilled, experienced staff
- Change state legislation on emergency management to include 'domestic animals'
- Recognise non-government animal rescue groups and spontaneous volunteers
- Lack of emergency service support for LAR in Victoria
- How to keep the people around me safe when dealing with an emergency
- Collaboration: ensuring a cohesive response to wildlife emergencies
- Welfare of wildlife impacted by disasters
- Bureaucracy
- Lack of training for sale yard staff for animal incidents especially cattle
- Main concern is a Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak and impact on the sector
- LAR- getting it up and running in WA
- National and state guidelines one language + practice between sectors
- Resourcing that makes an impact in the field
- The next large natural disaster and our readiness
- Future development of Fire and Rescue Units throughout QLD
- The risk of an untrained person getting hurt
- CFA LAR Team/Acceptance by CFA
- Litigation by animal owner
- More units trained
- Enabling confidence in QLDs emergency management
- Identify and improve disaster management and emergency management capabilities including opportunities for cooperative partnerships
- Integration/ timely response

- Priority- expanding what has been developed in Hawkesbury to other areas of NSW and other states
- Coordinating vets across groups and keeping them engaged in the future (versus knee jerk response after major disasters)
- Training and awareness
- Being called and being untrained and unprepared
- Capacity building – rolling out LAR nationally
- National approach
- Top priority concerns: When vets are called to assist in emergencies, that they have the skills and knowledge to comply with the expectations of the Act
- Volunteer vets may not be registered in Victoria (retired, interstate etc.) and so we must have a 'work around' to harness this help
- Priority- much of what veterinarians do creates public value but is not supported. This needs change.
- Capability and selection of right priorities
- 50% chance of major show stopping Emergency Animal Disease in 5 yrs. (Commonwealth Statistics)
- Top priority improving disconnect between animal industry and animal welfare – unity
- Supporting continuing education for Vets
- Continuing Education at Vet Schools
- Encouraging collaboration and team work and representing interests of equine vets providing resources for equine vets
- The fear of 'disaster incidents' not knowing how well the team will work together
- At some events, lack of a coordinated team approach to theoretical/practical preparation for 'disaster' action
- Dealing appropriately and efficiently in emergency situations e.g. race falls and serious injuries and incidents at the start
- Being able to cope with the pressure of dealing with emergencies on race day and having to make decisions very quickly
- Clear guidelines, simple protocols of training practices that can be adopted and resourced at all levels within our national sport operations
- Consistency across all states in emergency management for Equestrian Australia
- Recognising the privilege we have in working with, socializing and sport with our horses
- Maintaining our Social licence to operate as a sport and that horses, health and safety and welfare as just as important as humans
- To be part of the establishment of an actual large animal rescue response in Victoria
- The concern that we are potentially involved in a serious large animal emergency and we will not have any support to deal with it
- How do you provide national coverage for emergency equine rescue

## Working Group Summary

- Barriers to translation: How do we translate best practice (guidelines, protocols, training, command structures, response) to non-emergency services (racing, equestrian, transporters, stockyards)
  - Identify who to engage
  - Find out their needs for incident response relevant to their business **e.g.** Race day incidents will differ from stockyards etc.
  - Contextualise the training available to suit needs.
  - How to provide ongoing training and the logistics. It was identified that the likes of Hatchy and David could provide a one-off training but as staff changes or for businesses with multiple locations (i.e. Equestrian Aust) this would not be possible
  - Solution train the trainer
  - With multiple sites/events equipping needs may be problematic
  - Solution equipment sharing or equipment
  - Awareness: How do we let these organisations know that emergency response training is available?
  - Solution Marketing (didn't get time to explore this)
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- 2 states clear legislation EM
  - Enables
  - QLD, VIC,
  - Barriers to legislation
  - Central point of contact eg 000.
  - Definitions and interpretations
  - Nomenclature and language between agencies
  - Recognition of
  - Oil spill response, scope on domestic animals and LA, OWR (not always AIMS or SIMS)
  - Segmented animals in emergencies
  - Name of animal emergency management
  - Noting
  - Similar EM structure
  - Narrow thinking
  - Ag diff space acknowledge, based on frequency at this stage.
  - Client or owner (duty of care) when call triple 000.
  - Language assessment of legislation
  - NZ act opened and changed act, editing act EM act. Sentient.
  - Awareness courses, vets to do and then a call list of on call.
  - Plan of action, triple 000
  - University curriculum
  - Political

- Evacuation and safe places for animals
- Alerts and warnings
- Australian Animal Welfare Strategy previously disbanded, need national body to advocate and we can work with as an organization.
  
- Saving human life through saving animals
- 86% of people likely to save an animal
- If trained/skilled teams don't respond then general public/ untrained will respond?
- NSW SES respond
- Vic CFA response limited
- Legislation is a barrier to SES response
- Vic unit is self-funded
- Standardisation key – NSW model
- Funding barrier (Racing Vic? – Community?)
- Core business community service activity
- Community pressure to government/ CFA
- Follow international standards
- Support this network to apply procedures to CFA
- Approach key people
  
- Lack of awareness that the requirement exists (for work, training, formation of networks).
- Lack of training at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.
- Lack of financial support/ budget for training and retraining for training (undergraduate and post-graduate).
- Financial vulnerability / lack of remuneration/ expectation of volunteering/ not knowing if remuneration will occur (professional time, drugs, out of pocket, time away from practice and hospital running costs). Lack of financial support for training and then lack of remuneration for work is a barrier for vets to be able to contribute and leaves animal welfare dependent on good-will and therefore vulnerable.
- Liability (lack of clarity to understand the legislation, risk to registration, legal liabilities overall, contractual relationships with animal owners/ treatment euthanasia consent).
- Workplace health and safety
- Lack of professional support as often operating as the expert alone.
- Geography requiring long distances/ time and \$.
- Biosecurity concerns.