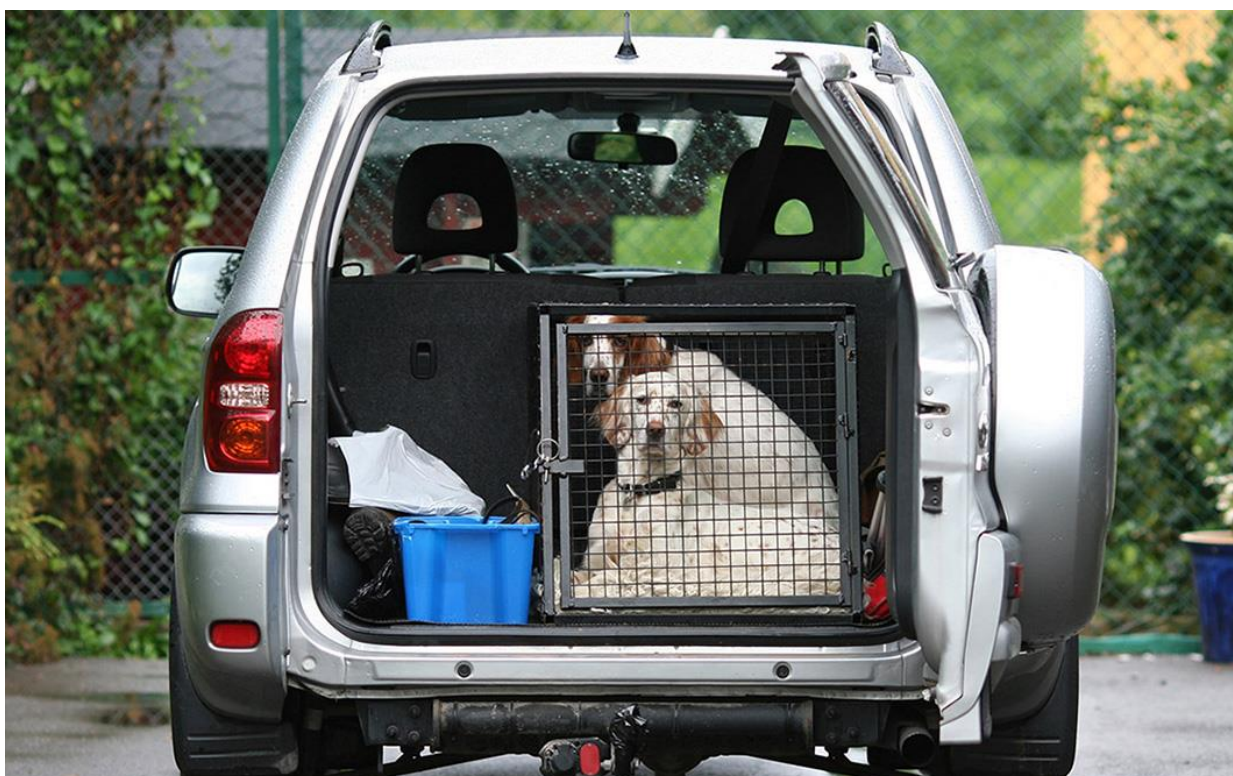




Shire of
Katanning
Heart of the Great Southern

Plan for Animal Welfare in Emergencies
August 2021



Contents

1	Introduction	5
1.1	Aim	5
1.2	Objectives.....	5
1.3	Scope.....	5
2	Preparedness	6
2.1	Roles and Responsibilities – Summary.....	6
2.2	Risk Profile.....	7
2.3	Community Preparedness Strategies.....	7
2.4	Community Preparedness Communication Plan	8
2.5	Number of Dogs and Cats in the Shire of Katanning.....	8
3	Response	8
3.1	Response Roles and Responsibilities	8
3.2	Response Activities	10
3.2.1	Transportation and Evacuation Route Options	10
3.2.2	Temporary Evacuation Centres/Shelters.....	10
3.2.3	Stray Animals.....	11
3.2.4	Reunification of Animals with Owners or Carers	11
3.2.5	Access to Properties.....	11
3.2.6	Animal Welfare Assessment, Triage and Treatment	12
3.2.7	Euthanasia and Disposal	12
3.2.8	Emergency Supplies	13
3.2.9	Rescue Requirements	13
	A list of available rescue equipment is included in the LEMA Resource Register Section 7.2	13
3.2.8	Psychological Wellbeing Support.....	13
	Psychological Wellbeing Support Services will be nominated by the Incident Controller.	13
3.3	Public Information.....	13
3.4	Situation and Intelligence	14
3.5	Cost	14
3.6	Volunteer and Donations Management	14
3.7	Escalation to State Support PAWE	14
4	Recovery.....	15
4.1	Recovery Roles and Responsibilities.....	15
5	Appendices.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
5.1	Animal Transport Providers	Error! Bookmark not defined.

5.2 Temporary Shelter Locations **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

5.3 Veterinary Clinics and Animal Welfare Service Providers..... **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

5.4 Emergency Animal Suppliers..... **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

5.5 Portable Stock Yards **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

5.6 The Following Groups Reside in the Area **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

5.5 REGISTERS FOR LOST AND FOUND ANIMALS **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

SAFE



AMENDMENT RECORD

No.	Date	Amendment Details	By
1	June 2021	Initial Draft – Consultant	C Webster
2	August 2021	Final Document	C Pearce CESM
3	September 2021	Endorsed by Council	C Pearce CESM



1 Introduction

The owner or person responsible for caring for an animal (the carer) is responsible for the welfare of that animal, however the owner's ability to carry out this responsibility may be difficult or impossible during and following an emergency event.

The [*National Planning Principles for Animals in Disasters*](#) identifies that including animal welfare considerations in general emergency response arrangements and recognizing the support and role of local and state governments, may help improve outcomes for both animals and their owners or carers and may also greatly improve the recovery of the community and economy.

The connection between people and their animals can be strong and diverse. Emergency events that impact on animals can affect communities on a range of levels including economically, socially, psychologically and culturally.

In responding to an emergency, the primary aim is to protect the safety of people: to fulfil this aim, it is important that the following factors are considered:

- people's bonds with their animals may influence their decision-making and behaviour during an emergency (e.g. refusing to relocate to a safer place if they cannot take their pets with them);
- people will often put themselves at risk for animals in emergencies even if those animals are not their own. This can lead to dangerous or fatal consequences; and
- The human-animal bond can strongly influence how well people prepare for emergencies and comply with emergency response directions, such as evacuation orders.

1.1 Aim

The Shire of Katanning Local Plan for Animal Welfare in Emergencies (PAWE) aims to provide guidelines to prepare for, respond to and recover from an emergency, with a focus on animal welfare.

1.2 Objectives

The Shire recognizes that encouraging and empowering people to prepare and plan for their animals' welfare in an emergency may not only improve the animal's chance of survival but may significantly improve the owners or carers safety and increase their resilience and that of the wider community.

The Shire of Katanning PAWE has been developed on the principle of coordination and collaboration, with the focus on connecting owners and carers with animal welfare service providers and supporting the provision of services and resources.

1.3 Scope

This PAWE should be read in conjunction with the *State Support Plan – Animal Welfare in Emergencies National Planning Principles for Animals in Disasters*, the *Shire's Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA)*, *Adverse Events Management Plan and Risk Register*.

The Shire of Katanning Local PAWE applies to:

- The municipality of the Shire of Katanning
- All animal owners within the Shire of Katanning
- The following types of animals:
 - Livestock
 - Domestic livestock
 - Pets

This Plan focusses primarily on domestic pets-small hobby farmers as the management of livestock rests with local farmers who are expected to have their own plans in place for emergencies and are better placed to manage these animals. This also applies to production businesses such as Piggeries, Poultry etc.

- The following types of animals are outside the scope of this Plan:
 - Wildlife (*DPIRD can provide advice regarding suitable temporary containment and other wildlife welfare needs*)
 - Feral animals
 - Privately owned animals in wildlife parks or zoos. (*DPIRD coordinates the welfare services for Perth Zoo and other private wildlife parks.*)
- The following hazards are outside the scope of this Plan:
 - Animal and Plant Biosecurity (please refer to *State Hazard Plan – Animal and Plant Biosecurity*)

2 Preparedness

2.1 Roles and Responsibilities – Summary

Name of Agency	Preparedness Role/ Responsibility
Owner/Carer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is responsible for the welfare of their animals and should consider preparedness for, response to and recovery from an emergency. • Will be encouraged to develop an Emergency Plan that takes into account the safety and wellbeing of their animals. • Animal owners are encouraged to have appropriate items such as transportable kennels/boxes, leashes, bedding, litter catchment, food and suitable transport on standby. • If animal owners do not have private vehicles, then their Emergency Plan should include arrangements with other residents to transport them and their pets to the evacuation point.
Local Government (Shire or Katanning))	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has developed and will maintain a local PAWE for its district. • Considers animal welfare in emergencies as an integral part of any community resilience programs or messaging. • Considers any highrisk groups that may need to evacuate early (i.e. kennel zones, boarding facilities, stables) as this information will identify priority roads to remain open to assist evacuation or give indicators to alert areas to consider early evacuation. • Will engage with WALGA on local animal welfare issues in emergencies through their representative on the Committee of Animal Welfare in Emergencies (CAWE).
Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development (DPIRD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinates and supports the development and implementation of plans, policies and procedures for the coordination of animal welfare in emergencies. • Chairs the Committee for Animal Welfare in Emergencies (CAWE). • Promotes public awareness and community engagement to improve preparedness for animal welfare in emergencies; • Promotes and supports LEMCs and controlling agencies for the inclusion of animal welfare considerations in emergency plans.
Committee for Animal Welfare in Emergencies (CAWE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishes networks and collaboration between the agencies and organizations that are essential to the effective provision of animal welfare support services in the event of an emergency

Name of Agency	Preparedness Role/ Responsibility
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has been established (and chaired) by DPIRD to provide a forum to address the maintenance of the <i>SSP – Animal Welfare</i> and its underlying arrangements, and to assist in maintaining capacity at a State level.
The Department of Biodiversity Conservations and Attractions (DBCA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies considerations relating to wildlife welfare in emergencies; • Coordinates the provision of animal welfare services to animals in the Perth Zoo and advises owners or carers of wildlife and wildlife parks. • Maintains membership on the CAWE. • Develops and maintains an internal emergency animal welfare operational plan, including the Oiled Wildlife Response Plan; and • Develops and maintains lists of potential support personnel available to assist with their responsibilities under the <i>State Support Plan – Animal Welfare</i>, as applicable.
Department of Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes animal welfare information in publications and websites to assist broader community awareness, education and understanding. • Maintains its membership on the CAWE to promote collaboration between human and animal welfare considerations
WALGA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represents Local Governments on the CAWE.

2.2 Risk Profile

The following risks have been identified through the SEMC State Risk Project as ‘priority hazards’ in the Shire of Katanning:

- Fire
- Storm
- Flood
- Heatwave
- Earthquake
- Pandemic

2.3 Community Preparedness Strategies

Animal owners or carers have responsibility for their animals’ wellbeing and safety, including during an emergency. They should ensure that they have an Emergency Plan in place that includes consideration for the safety and welfare of their animals, including:

- Will the animal be evacuated or remain onsite?
- Is transportation adequate and available to relocate the animal, under potential logistical constraints (i.e. road closures, window of safe evacuation)?
- Are suitable areas and adequate provisions available for animals left on a property to minimise the risk of harm (i.e. area at lowest risk of hazard impact, sufficient food and water access for prolonged absence)?
- Can their animals be identified (i.e. companion animal / horse microchipping, National Livestock Identification System, microchipping and registration of dogs and cats)?
- How prepared are they for a self-sufficient recovery and for how long?

Further advice is available from the DPIRD website under [*Animal Welfare in Emergencies*](#).

Owners or carers are responsible for the costs associated with the provision of private services, such as veterinary clinics, shelters, or food suppliers. The Shire will endeavor to seek donations and relevant services to reduce costs where possible.

Ref 3.6

- The Shires strategies targeted to developing community resilience and educating owners or carers on their responsibility for their animals in emergencies are based on the Preparedness material available on the DPIRD Animal Welfare in Emergencies webpage.
- In the lead up to an incident and prior to any formal activation the Shire will:
 - Escalate all community messaging via Social Media, SMS, town site signage and Emergency WA.
 - Have standby staffing arrangements in place including pre-training in animal handling. Sensitivity will be required when selecting staff on the basis of their beliefs. EG Muslim people are dissuaded from being in contact with dogs.
 - Ensure resource pre-positioning such as: pre-planned teams, access to suitable animal housing, food etc.
 - All information through the CESM office and Community Development Department should include animal welfare within their communications where relevant.

2.4 Community Preparedness Communication Plan

The Shire will provide communication on Animal Welfare during emergencies via its Website, Radio, on Facebook and within its Monthly Newsletter “SHIRE MATTERS”. Prior to Winter and Summer seasons further information can be sourced from the DPIRD, DFES and RED CROSS websites.

Face to face communications (with Farmers Groups, Schools etc) and at local Events such as Agricultural shows and Field days should be undertaken.

Hard copies of this information will also be provided in written and alternative formats at the Shire office.

2.5 Number of Dogs and Cats in the Shire of Katanning

The estimated number of Dogs: 504

The estimated number of Cats: 104

These numbers will assist in the Incident Controller in determining the possible numbers of domestic animals that may require evacuation and ongoing management.

3 Response

3.1 Response Roles and Responsibilities

Name of Agency	Response Role/ Responsibility
Owner/Carer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are responsible for the welfare of their animals and should consider preparedness for, response to and recovery from an emergency. • Are expected to enact their Emergency Plan at the appropriate time. • Are responsible for costs incurred through private services such as through private service providers, such as veterinary clinics, shelters, food suppliers
Local Government	<p>Will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activate the Local Government PAWE. • Liaise with the relevant controlling agency or HMA as a liaison officer and/or member of the ISG or OASG; • Advise IC of any areas that, due to animal-related activities (such as kennel or cattery zones) may require early evacuation (if required).

Name of Agency	Response Role/ Responsibility
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with DPIRD to provide a coordinated approach to animal welfare response actions. • Assist in the restraint of stray stock animals (where practicable) • Assist in the capture and restraint of stray domestic animals (where practicable) • Assist in the identification and reunification with owners of stray domestic animals. • Support DPIRD in the management of disposal of deceased animals.
Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development (DPIRD)	<p>Will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate the provision of animal welfare services to support the owner or carer or local arrangements for the animal categories of livestock, horses and companion animals. • Liaise with the relevant controlling agency or HMA as a liaison officer and/or member of the ISG or OASG; • Contribute to public information released during the emergency; • The DPIRD Incident and Emergency Management Branch (see Critical Contacts list) will be a centralized point of contact to provide advice and assistance to ensure animal welfare is considered during emergencies; • Provide situational reports to the CAWE. <p>If the capability of the owner or carer and any local arrangements is not sufficient or effective then DPIRD will liaise with the local government and other organizations to coordinate response activities including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaison with and advise Local Government and other organizations about suitable temporary containment and other welfare needs of animals. • Provide support and advice on transportation for evacuating animals. • Identify the availability of locations to house evacuated animals. • Identify/provide emergency food / water / shelter. • Manage displaced or stray animals. • Identify and reuniting animals with their owners or carers. • Assess and triage impacted animals and identify/administer treatment. • Perform/assist with transportation for euthanasia or perform on-site. • Activate the Animal Welfare Emergency Group (AWEG) if required. • Report AWEG outcomes back to the ISG / OASG. • Coordinate arrangements to best utilise volunteers and donations relevant to DPIRD animal categories.
Animal Welfare Emergency Group (AWEG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advise DPIRD of potential and actual animal welfare issues or requests; • Where possible, provide advice, services and/or resources, on behalf of their represented organization or sector, in response to issues or requests, and • Where requested, provide a representative to attend the ISG / OASG as appropriate.
Controlling Agency / HMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Controlling Agency's Incident Controller will have due consideration for animal welfare issues during the management of the incident.

Name of Agency	Response Role/ Responsibility
Dept. of Communities	Will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where appropriate, provide input to information for the public and media relating to alternative animal housing arrangements; • If known, advise evacuees presenting at centres of alternative animal housing arrangements; • Convey information provided by LG or DPIRD relating to animal welfare to people in welfare centres; and • Liaise with LG or DPIRD in relation to reuniting owners with their animals.
WALGA:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be the initial Local Government representative on the Animal Welfare Emergency Group (AWEG) (if formed).
DFES	Will use their Emergency WA Messaging Service

3.2 Response Activities

Animal welfare should be considered as an integral part of emergency management response. The incident management structure in place for other emergencies also applies to emergencies involving animals.

Please see LEMA section 3 for details.

This section documents the response activities that are **specific** to animal welfare considerations.

Local Government's response activities will be performed within their capability and capacity.

3.2.1 Transportation and Evacuation Route Options

The owner or carer has the responsibility to determine, where possible, if their animals will be evacuated or remain on location and plan for how this will be achieved.

In an emergency, DPIRD will liaise with the controlling agency or HMA and the Local Government to provide information on potential resources and advice on evacuating with animals.

This may include:

- early evacuation consideration for those travelling with large animal carriers;
- road closures, safe alternatives and suitability for traffic; and
- transport services or volunteer options
- arrangements with transport organizations (professional or private) See APPENDIX 5.1 this information is also listed in the LEMA under 7.5.2

3.2.2 Temporary Evacuation Centres/Shelters

Owners and carers should first seek to evacuate their animals to the properties of friends, family and private shelter facilities outside of the area in which the emergency is taking place.

The Shire has located existing animal accommodation places that can house evacuated animals. See APPENDIX 5.2 (Ref: LEMA 7.8)

DPIRD will coordinate with these entities to advise the public of locations to house evacuated animals if available.

Outlining clear arrangements for animals in evacuation and relocation procedures will improve both animal welfare and human safety outcomes.

Due to health and safety considerations, animals are not permitted inside community evacuation centres with the exception of recognized assistance animals.

Where information is not available at the time of evacuation, owners or carers with no alternatives should proceed to the community evacuation center and await further advice.

A Registration process for animals at evacuation facilities and for those reporting to community welfare facilities that have left animals behind has been prepared.

The Shire has developed three Animal Registers. They record Owners Names, Address, Contact details and Animal details amongst others. See APPENDIX 5.5

3.2.3 Stray Animals

Escaped or released animals evading a hazard can pose a risk to people, other animals, property or themselves. Stray animals will require containment or impoundment.

The powers to manage the movement of animals during emergencies, including containment or impoundment, are available under legislation. Please refer to *State Support Plan – Animal Welfare* Section 3.4.4 Managing Displaced or Stray Animals for details.

The Shire Ranger or nominated person will be responsible for managing stray animals. Additionally under the SSP Police are also authorized to manage the movement of stray animals.

Local Government staff are authorized under the Dog Act 1976 and Cat Act 2011 to pick up animals.

3.2.4 Reunification of Animals with Owners or Carers

Owners or carers should ensure their animals can be identified through appropriate up to date identification systems such as microchipping and the National Livestock Identification System. Further information on Animal Identification is available on the DPIRD website.

DPIRD will coordinate with Local Government for the identification and reunification of displaced or stray livestock and domestic animals during or as soon as practicable after an emergency.

If owners or carers are located within welfare centres, DPIRD will liaise with Department of Communities to reunite owners with their animals during or as soon as practicable after an emergency. For further information on Lost animals, see the DPIRD website.

Unclaimed and surrender implications, may be different from Local Government business as usual policy i.e. extension on how long a stray animal will remain in Local Government custody. The CEO will be required to inform Emergency Management team on this matter.

3.2.5 Access to Properties

Where animals are not evacuated, timely assessment and the application of treatment, routine care, euthanasia and deceased animal disposal, where applicable, is critical.

Access to impacted and restricted areas to undertake the assessment and management of animals is at the discretion of the Incident Controller.

Entry into emergency-affected areas may be restricted for a number of reasons. For community safety, road closures will often be set up which delay people's return to their properties and any animals remaining there. Animal owners or carers should not attempt to access the area unless permission has been given by the agency controlling the emergency.

In some situations, residents/property owners may be able to enter an affected area earlier than the general public in order to protect their property and attend to non-evacuated animals (proof of identity or property ownership will be required).

Where access to impacted areas may not be permitted to residents/property owners or the general public for a protracted time, DPIRD will liaise with the controlling agency or HMA in relation to the issue of Restricted Access Permits to address animal welfare considerations.

Restricted Access Permits may be issued in accordance with the State EM Plan section 5.3.3 Traffic Management during emergencies. This will be coordinated by the Incident Controller.

3.2.6 Animal Welfare Assessment, Triage and Treatment

Where access is permitted to owners or carers, all effort will be made by those persons to undertake the assessment of impacted animals in their charge, and initiate ongoing management.

Where access permits have been coordinated, it will also coordinate the following:

- assessment of impacted animals;
- prioritization of (triage) the welfare needs of animals; and
- the provision of a welfare assessment to assist the controlling agency or HMA to include animal welfare considerations in ongoing response and recovery operations.

DPIRD will liaise with the Shire and other organizations to:

- determine the local veterinary capacity to meet animal treatment needs;
- identify capacity gaps in animal treatment; and
- coordinate actions to address capacity gaps, including:
 - providing additional support for local veterinary practices;
 - directing owners and carers to local veterinary practices; or liaising with veterinary practices adjoining impacted areas to assist with animal treatment needs;
 - facilitating contact with volunteer veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses; and
 - establishing triage sites for assessment and treatment including euthanasia of seriously injured animals.

The Shire, if required, will request local Vets to establish a triage facility at a location determined by the Incident Controller. See APPENDIX 5.3 for Local Vet contact details.

3.2.7 Euthanasia and Disposal

Methods of euthanizing animals must be humane. Where the owner or carer is unable to arrange euthanasia either on-site or by transporting to suitable premises, and the animal has little or no chance of survival or continues to suffer harm if it remains alive, DPIRD will liaise with the controlling agency or HMA, to facilitate arrangements for euthanasia.

Actions may include:

- providing advice on the euthanasia of an animal or animals;
- providing advice on the fitness of an animal for transport;
- identifying suitably trained and equipped personnel to assist;
- identifying suitable resources to assist; and
- Coordinating access permits for the purpose of transportation or on-site euthanasia.

There are significant liability issues concerning the movement, treatment and euthanasia of animals, in particular companion animals and high worth animals such as breeding livestock or racehorses, this is especially so if the owner or carer of the animal is not present or consulted.

Wherever possible, euthanasia activities will take place in consultation with the owner or carer. Where it is not possible to identify or contact the owner or carer of an animal and euthanasia is required, the owner or carer should be contacted as soon as is practical afterwards.

Western Australia legislation provides the following powers for officers to euthanize an animal:

- An inspector appointed by the Chief Executive Officer of DPIRD under the AW Act may humanely destroy an animal where it is reasonably believed to be suffering so severely that destroying it would be the humane thing to do (s.41 AW Act); and

- During a state of emergency, for the purpose of emergency management, an authorized officer appointed by the State Emergency Coordinator may contain, remove or destroy an animal in the emergency area (s. 75 EM Act).

The disposal of deceased animals is the responsibility of the owner or carer, however, DPIRD will coordinate with the controlling agency or HMA and Local Governments to provide advice on the timely and appropriate disposal of deceased animals during an emergency.

Guidance on approved procedures for deceased animal disposal is available on the DPIRD website: Recovering for animal welfare after emergencies under Sick and Injured animals: Deceased animal disposal.

The Shire will make available the Animal Disposal area at the Refuse site. Shire staff may be available to assist in the disposal of deceased animals.

3.2.8 Emergency Supplies

Emergencies may affect the supply and quality of water, pastures and other sources of food usually available to animals. This is particularly significant for non-evacuated animals located within the impacted area.

During the response phase, DPIRD will coordinate, in liaison with the controlling agency or HMA, the provision of emergency food and water by:

- identifying animals requiring access to food and water as part of the welfare assessment within the impacted area;
- liaising with local organizations to identify evacuated animals requiring access to emergency food and water;
- identifying potential sources of food and water including depots, distribution centres and water; and
- Coordinating donations of food and other resources.

The allocation of food and water will aim to meet animals' basic nutritional requirements. In situations where the minimum requirements of an animal are unlikely to be met, consideration should be given to the agistment, temporary rehousing, rehoming, sale, adoption or euthanasia of an impacted animal, where relevant.

Shelter for animals located within the impacted area may also be significantly affected. During the response phase, DPIRD will coordinate, in liaison with the controlling agency or HMA, the provision of emergency shelter.

The Shire will coordinate the dispersion of food etc. to both abandoned animals and those at the Evacuation center. See Appendix 5.4 which lists emergency animal suppliers.

3.1.9 Rescue Requirements

A list of available rescue equipment is included in the LEMA Resource Register Section 7.2

3.2.8 Psychological Wellbeing Support

Psychological Wellbeing Support Services will be nominated by the Incident Controller.

3.3 Public Information

The Controlling Agency for the incident has the primary responsibility for public information for that event and will be coordinating with other relevant agencies. (Refer LEMA Resource Register Section 3.6, 3.7, 3.8)

Local Governments will need to provide the Controlling Agency local information for inclusion in the general messaging for the emergency, such as:

- Animals will be allowed in designated areas adjacent to welfare centres but will need to be leashed and contained
- Similarly, people who wish to offer volunteer assistance or make donations. Ref: 3.6

- During the incident enquiries relating to animal welfare will be managed locally by the HMA.
- Inquiries during Recovery will be managed by Local Government.

The HMA is responsible for the management of public information during an emergency. DPIRD will provide relevant information to the HMA.

3.4 Situation and Intelligence

The Resource Register and Critical Contact list is located in Appendixes 5.1

The information that is utilized for emergency response activities (i.e. hazard size / severity / location, predictions, road closures) should be analyzed for animal welfare considerations.

The Shire will develop new policy to ensure that animal welfare issues are considered when preparing relevant public information material.

3.5 Cost

Any arrangements regarding costs such as engaging contractors, waving shelter fees etc. to be determined by the Shire CEO or nominated person

3.6 Volunteer and Donations Management

During emergencies, additional resources and services may become available through charity/community groups and may include volunteering and donations of goods. DPIRD will coordinate.

Unmanaged donations and volunteers can pose a hindrance to response activities and communication with the public as to when, where and what to donate. This communication needs to be timely and consistent. Every effort will be made to redirect volunteers and donations to suitable and established animal welfare service providers, and relevant animal related organizations.

DPIRD will coordinate the updating of public messaging to provide consistent information for volunteering and donating and to promote the safety of individuals and responders.

All recovery activities in relation to volunteers and donations should be coordinated through the Local Recovery Coordination Group to avoid duplication of efforts (State Support Plan – 3.4.12)

3.7 Escalation to State Support PAWE

Escalation to the State Support PAWE is in accordance with the *State Support Plan – Animal Welfare in Emergencies* section 3.2 Plan Activation Procedures:

The Controlling Agency or HMA may determine the need to activate the arrangements under this Plan.

If an ISG, or OASG, has been established and includes a DPIRD representative, the Incident Controller may make a request to the DPIRD ISG/OASG representative to activate this Plan.

Where an ISG, or OASG, has not been established, or no DPIRD ISG/OASG representative is available, then the Incident Controller may call the DPIRD State Support Plan-Animal Welfare in Emergencies Number to request activation of this Plan.

DPIRD may recommend to the Incident Controller to activate this Plan.

Approval to activate the Plan is by the Executive Director, Biosecurity, DPIRD



4 Recovery

Many of the response activities relating to animal welfare will transition into the Recovery phase of the incident response. All effort will be made to return responsibility for animal welfare to the owner or carer, however, it is important to be aware of the challenges that may prohibit an owner or carer from doing this such as restricted access, loss of critical services and infrastructure and temporary accommodation options that do not permit animals.

Ongoing community communication is very important and the impacts to psychological or emotional wellbeing should be considered in all communication whether it relates directly to animal welfare or not. Communication with animal owners and the general public should avoid statements such as “no lives lost” or “no or minimal asset loss” as these can have an impact on those that have lost animals or lost livelihoods relating to animal industries.

Local Governments have the responsibility for recovery and should consider the impact of animal loss on the community both socially and economically.

4.1 Recovery Roles and Responsibilities

Local Government is responsible for managing recovery following an emergency affecting the community in its district under section 36(b) of the EM Act. Many of the activities covered under section 3 of this Plan will continue into the recovery phase of emergency management. During this time, DPIRD will coordinate to return the responsibility for ongoing animal welfare activities back to the Local Government and the owners and carers of animals.

Name of Agency	Recovery Role/ Responsibility
Owner/Carer	Owners/Carers are responsible for their animals.
Local Government	Will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include animal welfare considerations in any recovery plan. • Liaise with DPIRD to transition the ongoing animal welfare activities back to the control of Local Government and the owner or carer.

Name of Agency	Recovery Role/ Responsibility
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that all relevant agencies are included in the Recovery process. • Review the effectiveness of their respective PAWE.
Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development (DPIRD)	<p>Will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate the reporting and future investigation of animal welfare complaints arising as a consequence of the emergency. • Advise on and arrange for the disposal of deceased animals. • Assist owners and carers to obtain Restricted Access Permits, where applicable. • Liaise with relevant agencies to transfer responsibility for ongoing animal welfare activities back to Local Government and the owner or carer. • Provide advice to the controlling agency or HMA and Local Government on animal welfare considerations, as part of the Recovery Plan. • Participate in post-emergency debriefs and reviews, as requested.
Controlling Agency / HMA	<p>Will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with DPIRD to include animal welfare considerations into the Recovery Plan. • Include animal welfare in post-emergency debriefs and reviews. • Ensure that public announcements include the location of Animal Evacuation Centers and state the owners' respective responsibilities in respect to the care of their animals.
Dept. of Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider animal welfare to the extent possible during the coordination of Welfare Services
Dept. Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist DPIRD in providing animal welfare advice for the recovery plan; • Participate in post-emergency debriefs and reviews, as requested; • Participate as a member of the CAWE in reviewing this Plan; and • Review the effectiveness of the DBCA operational plan.
WALGA:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure Local Government is represented on the CAWE, via the WALGA member, to participate in reviewing this Plan.
DFES	Will provide alerts and warnings through Media Emergency WA