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HAZARDSCRC

MANAGING ANIMALS IN DISASTERS (MAiD) IMPROVING PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE, AND RESILIENCE THROUGH INDIVIDUAL AND ORGANISATIONAL COLLABORATION

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Presentation to the BNHCRC Research Advisory Forum

Thursday 12th April 2016

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Australian Government
Department of Industry and Science

Business
Cooperative Research
Centres Programme

MANAGING ANIMALS IN DISASTERS (MAiD): AIM AND GOAL

AIM - To identify and build best practice approaches to animal emergency management to enable engagement with animal owners, and other stakeholders in disasters and emergencies.

GOAL - The goal is to improve outcomes for public safety and the resilience of responders, animal owners, those with animal-related businesses, and communities.



MANAGING ANIMALS IN DISASTERS (MAiD): PROJECT TEAM AND END-USER ORGANISATIONS



Mel Taylor



Megan McCarthy



Penny Burns



Rachel Westcott



Kirrilly Thompson



Lisel O'Dwyer



Greg Eustace



Tasmania
Fire Service



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department
Australian Emergency
Management Institute



Government of South Australia
South Australian Fire and
Emergency Services Commission

FORT McMURRAY

Crystal Stuckless

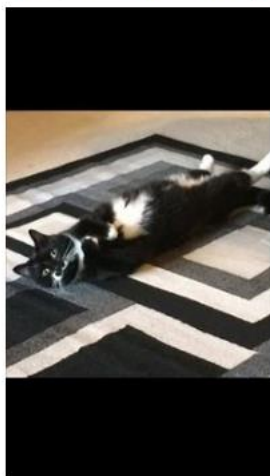
May 7 at 11:54am

Holding on to hope

FREE

📍 Glenwood, Newfoundland and Labrador

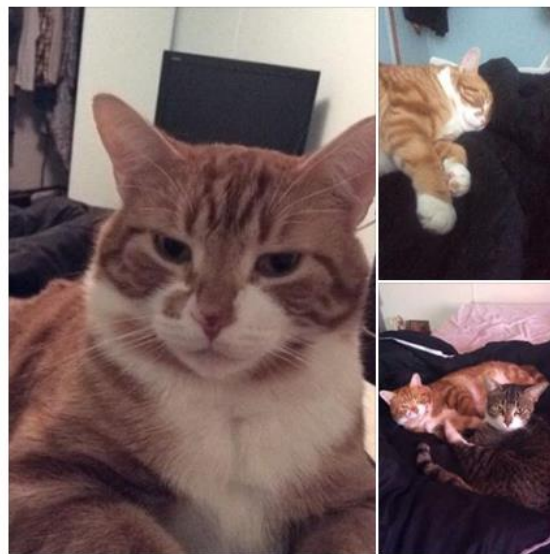
Still looking for my Frankie. He was in the Aspens of wildwood estates in Abasand. If anyone has seen him please contact me so I can get him home. I know its a long shot because our building is gone but animals are smart. I just hope someone kicked the locked doors in of the building...Please PM me with any info. Thanks



FREE

📍 Prince Albert, Saskatchewan

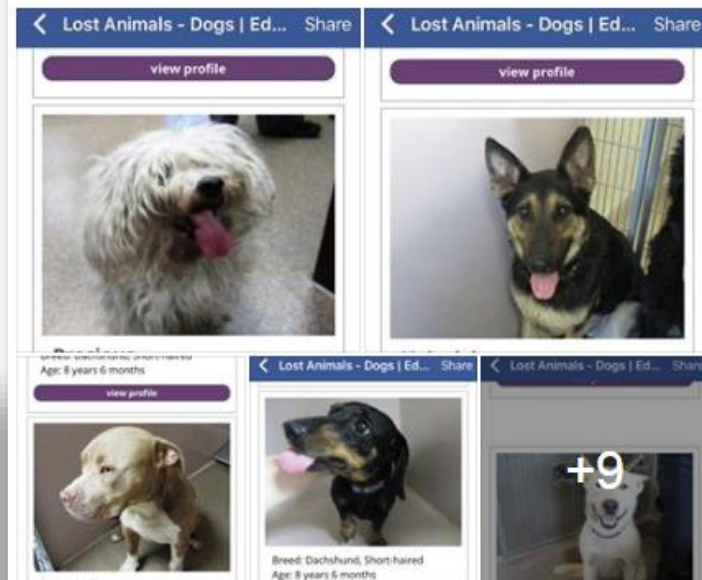
Our cat poncho, he jumped out of my little brothers arms upon arriving in barge landing during the evacuation yesterday. Please please keep an eye out if you are in the area or know someone who is share this post. He's my best friend. My whole family loves him very much, he has a collar on. If you find him call 780-714-1253 or inbox me! TIA



Connie Perri-Loree shared Bianca Sims's post.

May 8 at 6:07am

<https://www.facebook.com/.../24081.../permalink/489261494600841/>



Bianca Sims ► Fort McMurray evac relocation help group

May 7 at 8:55pm

These dogs are at the Edmonton Humane Society! I hope this helps someone find their baby! A lot of them are from Wood Buffalo 🐾🐾

FORT McMURRAY

Edmonton

Fort McMurray evacuees get relief for 4 members at shelter

Some 70 animals are being housed at the Lac La Biche evacuation centre

Erin Collins · [CBC News](#)
May 6, 2016



Pets get help in evacuation centre 3:17

4.4k shares

240 comments

Inside the evacuation centre in Lac La Biche, Alta., there is a shelter within a shelter. Just a short flight of stairs up from the arena where hundreds of people are sleeping, you will find a very different shelter where kennels have replaced cots.

Vicki Stafford is in charge here.

Stafford is with Animal Control in the nearby town of Athabasca but for now she is tasked with making dozens of animals, who were evacuated from Fort McMurray, comfortable.

"We are caring for about 70 animals, that is between cats dogs and exotic

change.org

Start a petition Browse Search

Log in

Petitioning Alberta Premier Rachel Notley and 1 other

Immediate action needed to save pets in homes 5 days after Fort McMurray fire.

Alexis Taylor Hafferton Bay Canada



It's been five days since many residents had to evacuate Fort McMurray without being able to rescue their pets from home. There are likely many hundreds of pets locked in homes, potentially dying from lack of food and/or water.

For many of us, animals are part of the family. Whether one believes that or not, they certainly experience suffering and being left without food and water for this long will have caused significant suffering.

Given that Fort McMurray has been deemed safe enough for journalists to visit, and given that trained volunteers experienced in similar emergencies have volunteered to assist the SPCA to rescue animals, and given that many owners of animals are giving permission via government website for their homes to be accessed in order to rescue their pets...

We urgently ask Premier Rachel Notley, and Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo Bylaw Manager Greg Scarborough, and any other government officials and emergency responders who have jurisdiction over this issue, to IMMEDIATELY provide access to all trained animal rescue volunteers who can demonstrate their training and experience, and who are willing to sign waivers regarding the risks they are taking, and who agree to work under the direction of the SPCA.

We also request that emergency first responders be allowed to enter homes WITHOUT a locksmith (including breaking to enter) in those situations when a pet owner has indicated on the government form that they give permission for this, in order for their pet(s) to be rescued.

Sign this petition

1,837 supporters

883 needed to reach 2,500

Theresa O'Brien signed this petition

First name
Last name
Email
Australia
Postal code

I'm signing because... (optional)

Share with Facebook friends

Sign

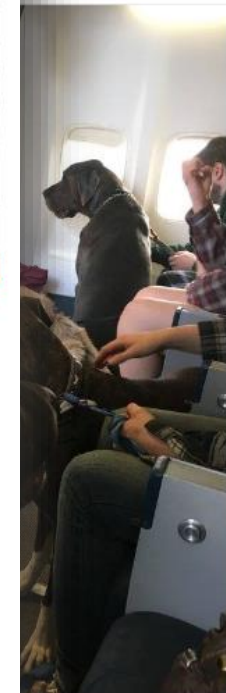
By signing, you accept Change.org's [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#) and agree to receive occasional emails about campaigns on Change.org. You can unsubscribe at any time.

will be there for all of the four as long as they need her.

area welcomed pets on board to

es flight show dogs resting at the as they are flown out of Fort

eful.



Follow

is full of fire evacuees

POPULAR IN NEWS

12:51 AM - 7 May 2016

74 85

RESEARCH OVERVIEW

Scoping activities (Phase 1)

Audit: formal policies, procedures and local initiatives, research

Stakeholders: priorities and needs

Responders: organisational priorities, responder experiences and needs

Field work (Phase 2)

Spontaneous volunteers/'non-traditional' responders (South Australia / National) – with DELWP and AEMI

Peri-urban animal owners (Tasmania) – with TFS, DPIPWE and Local Govt

Horse owners - experiences of the 2015 SA bushfires (South Australia) – with CFS and Horse SA

Building an ARC (New South Wales) – with Blue ARC

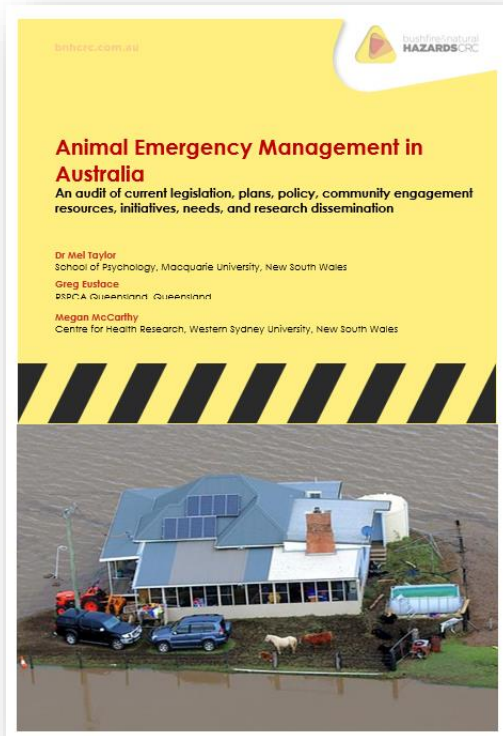
PhD Research

Animal Owner – Responder interface (South Australia) – with CFS, PIRSA, SAPOL



SCOPING OUTPUTS – AEM AUDIT

Main findings



- A systems approach to emergency management is essential – integration of animal emergency management is required.
- There are clouded collaborations, misunderstandings of responsibilities and issues around interagency coordination.
- Lack of status of animal emergency management impedes progress and results in organisational fragility in this 'non-core' business.
- There is a lack of consistency in public communication– multiple messages from multiple stakeholders.
- Animal emergency management is a 'people' issue – broader engagement is needed.

<http://www.bnhcrc.com.au/research/resilient-people-infrastructure-and-institutions/237>

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MAPPING OF CHALLENGES TO RESEARCH PROGRAM CONTRIBUTION

| Challenges in AEM | Phase 2 – Field Studies | | | | PhD research |
|--|---|---|--|---|---|
| | Spontaneous volunteers | Horse owners' experiences | Peri-urban animal owners | Building an ARC | Owner - Responder interface |
| a. The physical management/rescue of animals in natural disasters |  |  | | |  |
| b. Interactions with animal owners during disaster response | |  | |  |  |
| c. Interactions with animal owners in disaster preparedness and planning | |  |  |  | |
| d. Interactions with members of the general public |  | | | | |
| e. Post-disaster impacts in management of animals or their owners | | | |  | |
| f. The logistics available to respond to animals in natural disasters |  | | |  |  |
| g. Unclear policy or operational responsibilities |  | |  | |  |
| h. Inter-agency coordination around the management of animals or their owners in natural disasters |  | |  | |  |
| i. Co-ordination with non-emergency service agencies |  | | | |  |
| j. Managing/dealing with untrained /spontaneous animal-related responders |  | | | |  |



SPONTANEOUS VOLUNTEERS

**COLLABORATION, COMMUNICATION, AND INTEGRATION IN
ANIMAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

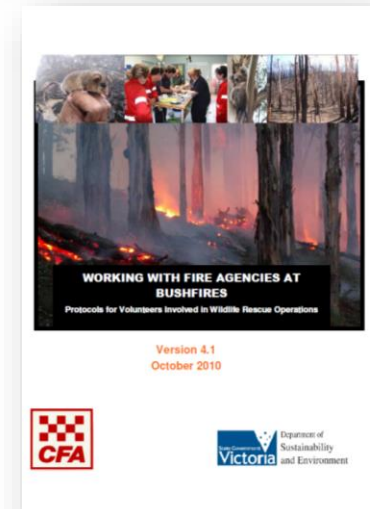
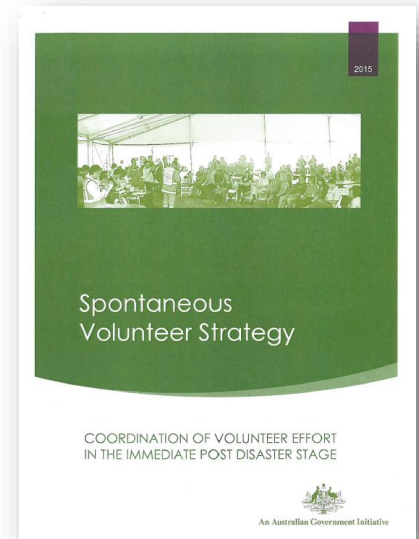
OVERVIEW

Rationale

- Importance of AEM
- Appetite for informal volunteering
- Range of challenges and opportunities in harnessing volunteers/volunteer groups in AEM

Aim

- To explore issues around the integration of informal volunteers in animal emergency management



CASE STUDY- SAMPSON FLAT BUSHFIRE

Using Sampson Flat bushfire as a case study to explore questions regarding the challenges for, and strengths and limitations of, informal volunteering in this context.

- Department of Primary Industries and Regions SA
- RSPCA SA
- South Australian Veterinary Emergency Management
- SA Fires Animal Reunite
- Horse SA
- Livestock SA
- Primary Producers SA
- Lost Pets of Adelaide
- Lost and Found Horses and Ponies SA
- Fauna Rescue of SA
- Disaster Animal Response Team Australia
- National Animal Rescue Groups of Australia
- Lucky Little Paws Rescue and Adoptions
- Greyhound Racing
- Pets and Their People
- Help Save the Furry Ones
- Animal Welfare League SA
- SA Rabbit Rescue & Adoptions
- Amanda Vella's SAHA Horse Rescue Sanctuary
- University of Adelaide Equine Centre
- SA Kennels, Catteries, Aviaries and Agistments
- Canine Emergency Rescue Squad
- Adelaide Hills Bushfire Lost Pets Register
- Statewide Community Assistance Database SA
- Sampson Fire Livestock & Animal Support
- SA Fires, People and Pet Temporary Rehoming
- Walking Forward Disaster Relief Team

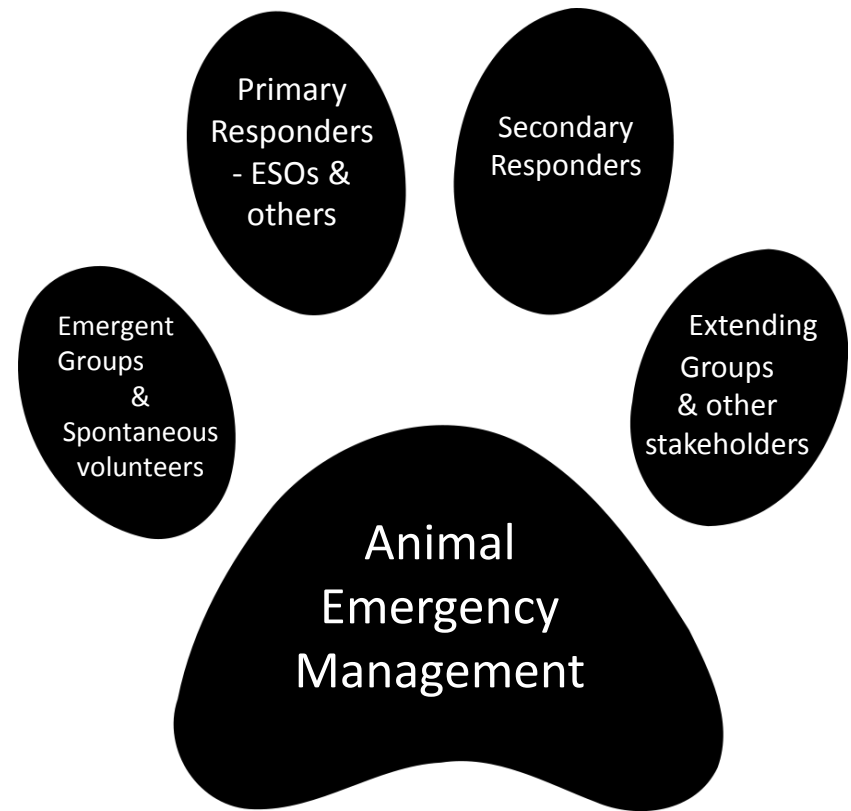


WHY SAMPSON FLAT?

- Timing
- Rich source of information from social media and traditional media sources
- Unique insight (SAVEM)

INTERVIEWS

- Coordinators/administrators of emergent informal volunteer groups
- Members of established animal organisations (extending)
- Members of the volunteer group South Australian Veterinary Emergency Management (SAVEM),
- Trained emergency services personnel and personnel from key government agencies



INITIAL THEMES

Communication - uncertainty about roles and direction

...we sort of felt, is there something else we should be doing? Or should we not be doing this? Or are we doing this correctly? That sort of thing...communication around what's going on now, where's it heading now, that sort of thing that I think we sort of thought we might be more in the loop about".

Perceived gap/speed of Government response

...there was a lag time a definite three day lag time. So, in that three days is actually when a lot of the relocations look place, a lot of community initiatives, the setting up fodder ... all that sort of stuff happened in that three day window without government.

Need for coordination/collaboration

...I think there needs to be a centralised sort of hub if you like, where needs are posted and whichever group can take on that particular task takes it on and sees it right through to the end"

PART II – SURVEY OF INFORMAL VOLUNTEERS

- To (try to) capture hard to reach segment
- Expanded to recent disaster events
 - January 2015 onwards
 - Across jurisdictions / National study
- Launch – late May 2016
- Focus on
 - Roles and contributions
 - Coordination, communication and collaboration with other groups
 - Achievements and challenges



HORSE OWNERS **EXPERIENCES OF THE 2015 SA BUSHFIRES**

QUOTES (RESPONDERS)

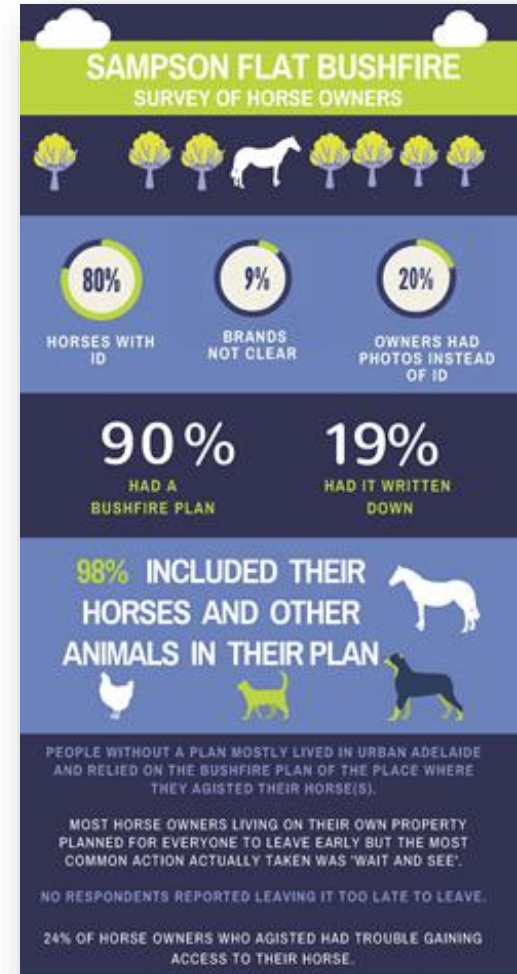
'very emotional situations in time of large fires endangers staff and public'

'In the event where owners have been told to evacuate pets/animals are often forgotten, when told they cannot return this causes many problems for emergency crews. Endangering life for animals is a big decision and can stretch already busy emergency crews to the limits. Again owners need to take responsibility for their pets/animals where safe to do so. If they chose to leave them behind they cannot get angry when told for their own safety they cannot return.'

'Roads used for evacuating communities blocked by horse floats... People helping to evacuate friends' horses with no plan or idea of the area and not knowing the roads into or out of the area they have gone into to assist.'

HORSE OWNER EXPERIENCES OF 2015 SA BUSHFIRES

- Initially Sampson Flat bushfire
- Extended to Pinery bushfire
- Online surveys
 - Sampson Flat
 - Pinery (late May)





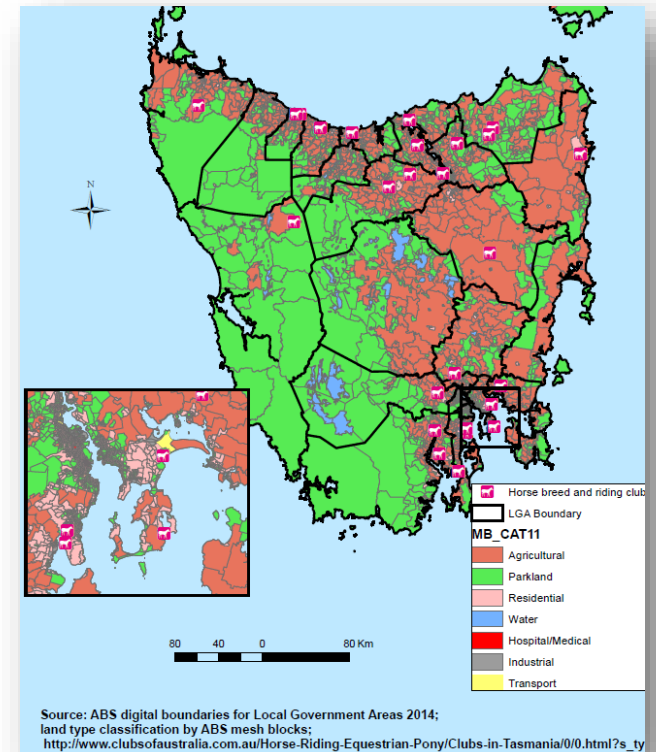
PERI-URBAN ANIMAL OWNERS

PLANNING FOR ANIMALS: A MULTI-STAKEHOLDER STUDY OF PERI-URBAN ANIMAL OWNERS

PERI-URBAN ANIMAL OWNERS

Aim: To map peri-urban animal populations in a bushfire prone area with an overlay of owner evacuation intentions.

- Identification and location of animal concentrations
- Survey of community
- Mapping / planning with stakeholders



RESEARCH PLAN

- Coordinate with next round of TFS 'Bushfire Ready Neighbourhoods' to identify location/s
- Use existing DPIPWE, ABS, and other local data for initial 'mapping' of animal concentrations
- Survey owners' animal holdings, plans, intentions
 - Use local livestock networks as entry points, especially horse-related
 - Leverage TFS BRN events/networks in target community
- Liaise with Local Council
 - Locations, capacity, routes
- Feedback to community



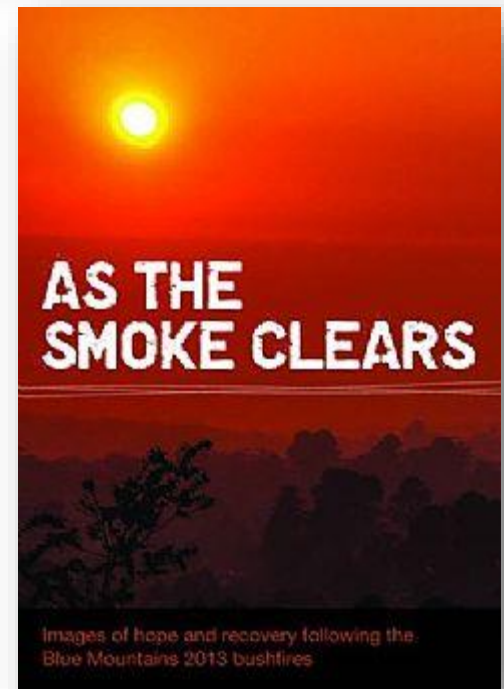
BUILDING AN ARC

**ESTABLISHING A COMMUNITY-LED ANIMAL READY
COMMUNITY (ARC)**

BUILDING AN ARC

Aim: To assist with, and document, the setting-up of an Animal Ready Community.

- Linked to group behind 'As the smoke clears'
- Links to local networks and resources



BUILDING AN ARC

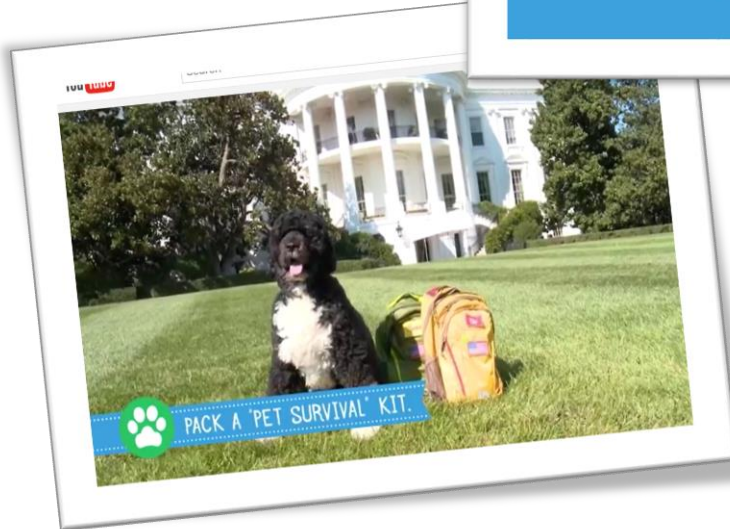
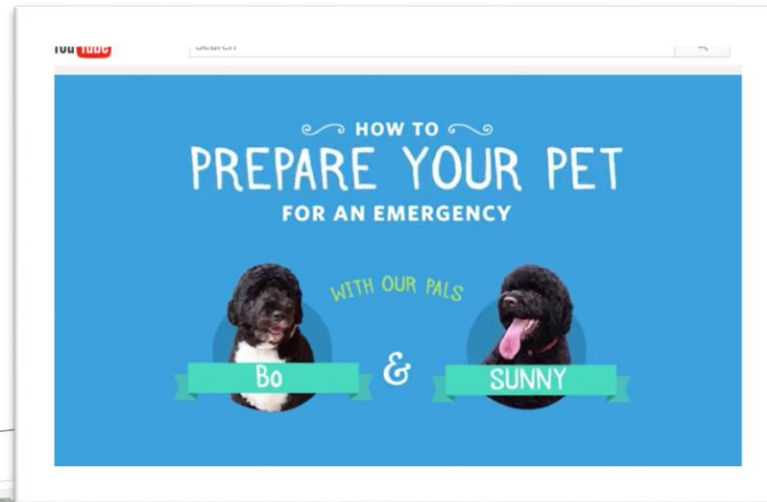
- Speaking to key people – past and current formal roles
 - Interviews
 - Capturing experiences from the 2013 fires
 - What happened, who did what, challenges, changes since
 - What are current needs
- Identifying local animal networks
 - Groups, Associations, Businesses
 - Animal Mapping
- Identifying needs of local animal owners
 - Information, practical, support
 - Survey / workshops
- Setting objectives
- Support with community materials



PROJECT UTILISATION

- Each element has potentially useful outputs
- Initial discussion identified two priorities for utilisation
 - Mapping and planning process
 - National AEM guidelines document → AEM Handbook

QUESTIONS?



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