

Pets and bushfire – what do we know



Feedback Survey

Q9 - Please provide details of the most informative parts of the webinar

Summary Key highlights provided by webinar viewers

1. **Clear thinking and formulating a plan**

- Importance of clear thinking to formulate a plan prior to a fire event.
- The presenters emphasized the need for a checklist to prepare and tick off tasks.

2. **Compassionate presenters**

- The presenters demonstrated a superb "bedside manner," showing care, compassion, and personal experience, making the material approachable.

3. **Expert information**

- Expert information covered psychological and veterinary aspects, with a focus on rural areas, but also applicable to peri-urban settings.

4. **Actions for horse management**

- Specific actions and considerations for managing horses during a fire event.

5. **Responsibility for pets**

- Emphasis on the responsibility of pet owners to support and care for their pets during evacuation.

6. **Preparation for pets**

- Checklist for preparing pets before the bushfire season, including food, water, and other essentials.

7. **Wildlife concerns**

- Caution against trying to rescue wildlife during a fire event.

8. **Emergency Plus App**

- Information about the Emergency Plus app and other websites for further information.

9. **Secure pets and leave early**

- The importance of securing pets and leaving early during evacuation.

10. **Livestock as property assets**

- Consideration of livestock, such as breeding bulls, as property assets worth protecting.

11. **Community engagement**

- Encouragement for community engagement and planning for fire threats.

12. **Practical suggestions:**

- Practical tips on preparing and relocating pets, including the emotional connection people have with their animals.

13. **Research and understanding**
 - The need for pet owners to research and understand council arrangements for pets at emergency evacuation centers.
14. **Quick evacuation**
 - The importance of quick evacuation when smelling or seeing smoke.
15. **Animal welfare during disruption**
 - Valuable information on animal welfare during periods of disruption, beneficial for community leaders and those without pets.
16. **Health risks for animals**
 - Consideration of health risks for animals during fire events.
17. **Common sense and personal responsibility**
 - Emphasis on pet owners practicing common sense and taking personal responsibility for their animals.
18. **Integration of preparedness into normal life**
 - Encouragement to integrate preparedness into normal life, not just as a seasonal consideration.

Detailed audience responses

- 1 All of tonight's information was great. Down to earth information and good questions made the night. I would love to run it for the team and throughout Red Cross Emergency Services' Be Prepared sessions.
- 2 Collaborate with neighbors in planning to evacuate especially if there is a variety or large number of pets. Most importantly plan well ahead and share planning with family.
- 3 A very good reminder about the reality of bushfires and motivation to update our plan and get moving on these things.
- 4 Preparation for moving pets, practising, having crates, deciding which are to go and detailed in the plan, emphasis on the time it takes to relocate plus the emotional connection people have with pets and the allocation of responsibilities.
- 5 How pets affect people's behaviour in a bushfire.
- 6 What makes fire evacuation failure more likely during Dr Mel Taylor's talk, and the practical steps outlined by Dr Rachel Westcott.
- 7 Clear thinking to formulate plan prior to event.
- 8 Giving me a checklist to get done and ticked off. I was able to do this as I watched the recording. I think it would of gone too quick if I watched it live.
- 9 The presenters had a superb 'bed-side manner", meaning their level of care, compassion and personal experience came through loud and clear. This makes the material very approachable. Expert information about psychological and veterinary aspects was very useful. Much of the great information was for more rural areas. Though this was not relevant to me with my peri-urban house block and one dog, it is very helpful to be reminded of the situation others are in.
- 10 The honest and frank answers from both presenters and the information being sent straight away by BRI's webinar team.
- 11 Learning the terms lovestock and livestock has helped clarify our approach. Also the idea of providing dedicated yards with independent sprinkler systems. Really take-home message for me is about making preparedness part of our normal life, and not just something to be thought about just prior to summer.

- 12 Actions to take for horse management.
- 13 Our responsibility to supporting our pets.
- 14 The importance of taking responsibility for your own animals and not put other people's lives at risk.
- 15 Preparing the animals for relocation, gates to leave open, those to leave shut, places to look for animals that might be hiding, ways to transport them. The apps and websites. The priorities of CFS.
- 16 Very impressed with the pets segment.
- 17 Don't try to rescue wildlife. Put your dog on a lead and secure her somewhere safe while getting ready to leave .Have your pets checked by a vet if exposed to heavy smoke, Make a checklist of what to prepare e.g. wet towels.
- 18 Not one thing but a few different bits made me think.
- 19 Need to make sure a kit for Archie, our dog, is ready before the bushfire season, as well as our own. We have been a little less careful about such things since in the last three years we have had no bushfires close by due to La Nina. A very good reminder about the reality of bushfires and motivation to update our plan and get moving on these things.
- 20 Prepare plan and practise your plan. Same for pets as for humans but pets need more looking after.
- 21 Importance of planning what to do with the animals prior to any event.
- 22 I know people with pets and I'll be passing the information on and particularly the link to recording when it's up. Although we have no pets, I did find many reminders of things to consider with regard to bushfire planning.
- 23 We hadn't considered needing to take so many items for our pet if evacuating.
- 24 Psychology of humans and animals in a fire.
- 25 Summary of research on pets & bushfire, especially the 'don't try to rescue wildlife from fire ground' info. The practical info about preparation and not assuming an emergency centre will take pets.
- 26 The most important thing I got out of this was to hear questions I had never considered.
- 27 As a CFA volunteer, the point that livestock e.g. a breeding bull is a property asset and may be worth protecting more than outbuilding. When we are assigned in an asset protection role livestock are the last of our consideration of what is worth saving.
- 28 Very informative for family and friends. I am happy to have information to help them. I found it very informative as I had never thought of any of the information.
- 29 The sharing of (incorrect) assumptions that people typically make!! The effective checklist of what not to do & what to do. The focus on clearly communicated, useful information. The laid-back style of the presenters.
- 30 Prepare early. Engage with local vet services on the subject of pets and fire/evacuation. Ensure you have a means to move/transport your pets/animals if you choose to leave. Fire refuges will/may not accommodate pets, Recommend pets are not left outside in advance of fire in case they wander and cannot be located.
- 31 Considerations and suggestions for managing 'lovestock' in a bushfire situation.
- 32 Specific information given on animal welfare for a lot of animal types and some great ideas for management before and during a fire event.
- 33 Pre fire season, detailed preparation of pets & their anticipated needs.
- 34 Knowing who to contact if seeing wildlife in distress during a bushfire event.

- 35 Relocating pets prior to the likelihood of fire impact, also having crates and other units that are relevant when you and your pets are under threat.
- 36 Preparation details from the Vet.
- 37 Thinking about what my plan will involve if I'm not at home when there is a threat.
- 38 Discussions around preparing pets for travel, securing and planning early for different scenarios.
- 39 Practical tips on what you can do with different animals.
- 40 The info about pets, preparedness and what to have for them was excellent.
- Would have been great to have local references rather than SA, but at least we can go looking for them.
- 41 Lists of apps and sites for further information, the practical tips associated with planning and preparation.
- 42 All very interesting, especially the high number of people who won't leave because of pets.
- 43 How the firefighters might be open to saving livestock rather than the house and buildings. The idea of a safe paddock (with alfalfa) and a 5 year plan to achieve this. The importance of a Plan B.
- 44 Prioritizing personal safety, preparedness. Probably not the most informative for me as we only have 3 chooks and 2 bee hives. The chooks can easily be caged in our possum trap and I maintain clear area around bee hives.
- 45 Some important points were raised in regards to attempting to help wildlife during a bushfire. Having "Kits" in readiness to transport pets was a good reminder.
- 46 I delivered bushfire blitz program and to revisit was very good.
- 47 The need for us to research and fully understand our council's arrangements for pets at emergency evacuation centres.
- 48 Firsthand knowledge, presentation resources, warning to BE PREPARED and practise. Only have 5-10 minutes to leave when you smell smoke.
- 49 Although we are not pet/livestock owners, the discussion on animal welfare during periods of disruption was very valuable to me and as the leader of our Community Fireguard Group. It will prove useful to me in discussions with our many members with numerous pets, livestock and horses.
- 50 The major challenges faced by pet owners to manage their risks, with the risks increasing as the number of pets increases and variety of pets increases.
- 51 Apps & what one needs to do to remove pets.
- 52 The whole webinar was excellent. We don't have pets but work in the area of educating communities about fire.
- 53 It made me think about be more prepared with our dog.
- 54 Health risks for animals.
- 55 Common sense needs to be practiced by pet owners and not rely on others. Too late when you smell or see the smoke.
- 56 Common sense needs to be practiced by pet owners and not rely on others. Too late when you smell or see smoke.
- 57 Specific ways to prepare pets and property during fire season.
- 58 A better understanding why having a bushfire plan for animals is very important. Key elements about how animals can make human fire plans more complex.