

# CAWE Communiqué

August 2019

## Introduction

Welcome to the *CAWE Communiqué* designed to provide stakeholders with updates from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) on Animal Welfare in Emergencies. The *CAWE Communiqué* will be distributed quarterly following the DPIRD Committee for Animal Welfare in Emergencies (CAWE) meetings and will be made available on the DPIRD webpage.

## August edition items

- Exercise Equus Update
- New DPIRD Animal Welfare in Emergencies webpages
- Local Government Workshops

## Exercise Equus



Preparations for the discussion exercise – Exercise Equus – are progressing well. The aim of the exercise is to evaluate the effectiveness of the State Support Plan – Animal Welfare in Emergencies, so relevant lessons can be identified, captured and reflected, where relevant, in a revised Plan prior to the 2019 natural hazard season.

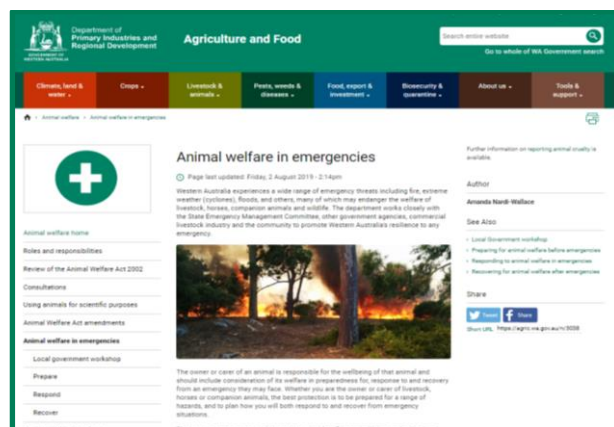
The exercise will focus on the notification, activation and coordination of key agencies under the Plan, to understand current capacity, capability and agencies' roles and functions in the preparedness and response stages to a fire event impacting animal welfare.

Organisations identified to take part are primarily members of the CAWE and invitations have been sent for both exercise participants and observers. The exercise is designed to allow the participants to work through the scenario as a collective group with mentoring and advice provided by experienced professionals from the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) Business Unit, Department of Fire and Emergencies Services (DFES) and DPIRD.

The discussion exercise will enhance awareness of, and assist to identify strengths and limitations of the operations and policies for coordinating animal welfare services in emergencies.

Exercise Equus is on **13 September**.

## New DPIRD Animal Welfare in Emergencies webpages



Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development  
<https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/animalwelfare/animal-welfare-emergencies>

DPIRD is updating its publically available content for animal welfare in emergencies. The new pages give an overview of the arrangements in WA as well as key information to assist the owners or carers of animals to Prepare, Respond and Recover.

Future improvements to the pages will include News and Events, where the CAWE Communiqué will be made available, and Tools and Links, which will centralise access to helpful tools, guides, links and groups available.

### Local Government Workshops

DPIRD and the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) worked together to host two workshops on Animal Welfare in Emergencies for Local Governments. Held on 20 (Hillarys) and 22 (Albany) August, the workshops brought together approximately 100 participants from across Local Governments, State Governments and not for profit animal organisations.



Photo Courtesy of Dana Weeks

The workshops were co-delivered by DPIRD and Hayley Squance from BML Consulting New Zealand, and introduced participants to the importance of considering animals and their welfare in emergencies, highlighting the unique and sometimes challenging issues that arise.

Participants worked in groups to explore how different animals could be impacted by various natural hazard events. These findings influenced further discussion as to what preparedness and planning measures

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are achievable by the community, Local Governments and the State to improve the outcomes for animals and their owners or carers during and after an emergency. By working in groups, with support of the workshop facilitators, participants gained a variety of views and considerations from the experience of others.

In the coming weeks the participants will receive a summary of key lessons identified as well as a draft headings template to assist with future development of their own animal welfare plans.

Feedback from the workshops was positive, with many reflecting on the importance of the networks they made and the value of collaboration. Many found the chance to network on such a topic very insightful and opened them up to new ideas previously not identified in their arrangements. Most participants felt the information would help them in their workplaces and all involved look forward to attending similar events in the future.



Photo Courtesy of Dana Weeks

### Contact

For further information or enquiries:

[Amanda Nardi-Wallace](#)

State Animal Welfare Emergency  
Coordinator | DPIRD