



Managing animals during a hazard (Bendigo Advertiser)

- Key Topics:
- animals [2]
  - communication [3]
  - risk management [4]

Managing animals in disasters: improving preparedness, response, and resilience through individual and organisational collaboration [5]

During a disaster responsibility for animals lies with the owner. However, owners are often ill-prepared for themselves and their animals, which can lead to people risking their lives by failing to evacuate or evacuating too late, which endangers both human and animal lives. This recognition that animals need to be considered and integrated into emergency management and disaster preparedness, response, and recovery poses additional challenges for traditional responding. Extra preparation, knowledge and skills are required to ensure the safety of animals, their owners, and responders.

In this context, animal emergency management has emerged as a relatively new area, with a more complex and often less experienced set of stakeholders requiring integration and coordination.

This study addressed the lack of Australian research by identifying challenges for end-users and studying the disaster experiences of animal owners and responders. Subsequent publications have led to an extended knowledge base, and identification of best practice approaches.

## Project: detail Notabs

## Research team

## Research leader

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RESEARCH LEADER




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**Andrew Stark**  
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Description

During a disaster responsibility for animals lies with the owner. However, owners are often ill-prepared for themselves and their animals, which can lead to people risking their lives by failing to evacuate or evacuating too late, which endangers both human and animal lives. This recognition that animals need to be considered and integrated into emergency management and disaster preparedness, response, and recovery poses additional challenges for traditional responding. Extra preparation, knowledge and skills are required to ensure the safety of animals, their owners, and responders.

In this context, animal emergency management has emerged as a relatively new area, with a more complex and often less experienced set of stakeholders requiring integration and coordination.

Most research in the area has emerged from the United States following extensive and widely-reported animal-related challenges associated with Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Although animal owners in the US and Australia will share many of the same characteristics and behaviours, the emergency management arrangements and typical scale of disasters are quite different, making translation of US research to Australia difficult.

The National Strategy for Disaster Resilience states that communities should be empowered to take shared responsibility for disaster resilience. Animals provide an avenue to connect communities, and to enable community members to work together in disaster preparedness and planning.

This study addressed the lack of Australian research by identifying challenges for end-users and studying the disaster experiences of animal owners and responders. Subsequent publications have led to an extended knowledge base, and identification of best practice approaches.

Case studies were undertaken on the 2015 Sampson Flat bushfire in South Australia, as well as with the Tasmania Fire Service and its Bushfire Ready Neighbourhoods program. The team collaborated with a newly-formed community-led group in the NSW Blue Mountains called Blue Mountains Animal Ready Community (Blue ARC). The research explored a 'community-to- community' approach to enhancing awareness, preparedness and planning for animals in emergencies.

Key findings show that over 60% of respondents expected the emergency services would provide information or advice regarding what they could do with their animals in an emergency situation. This expectation was higher than other groups, such as veterinarians or the RSPCA. A generally low level of planning was reflected in the experiences of those who had evacuated during the 2013 fires. Although most respondents reported taking animals with them when they evacuated, some reported leaving a person behind to look after the animals, and others had to choose which animals to leave.

This research will inform the production of a community guide to establishing an animal ready community; a resource that could be used by other communities to promote emergency preparedness and planning through a focus on animals. This will include helpful advice for the steps involved, the networks and collaborations required, how to identify the needs of local animal owners, and suggestions for community activities.

[Read the final report here.](#) [32]

Download:  
 Managing Animals in Disasters - project overview [33]

Related News

# munication and war

## olution of unications and warnings ergency preparedness, se and recovery

24 AUG 2021

Protecting communities with better warnings and communications – an online guide to using the latest research  
COMMUNICATION, COMMUNITIES

[34]



Creating a community that is animal-ready during emergencies  
ANIMALS, COMMUNICATION

18 MAR 2021

[35]





29 OCT 2020

Animal preparedness research shines again  
ANIMALS, COMMUNICATION

[36]



24 SEP 2020

Animal guides informed by research  
ANIMALS, COMMUNICATION

[37]



10 DEC 2019

It's hard to breathe and you can't think clearly – if you defend your home against a bushfire, be mentally prepared  
COMMUNICATION, FIRE

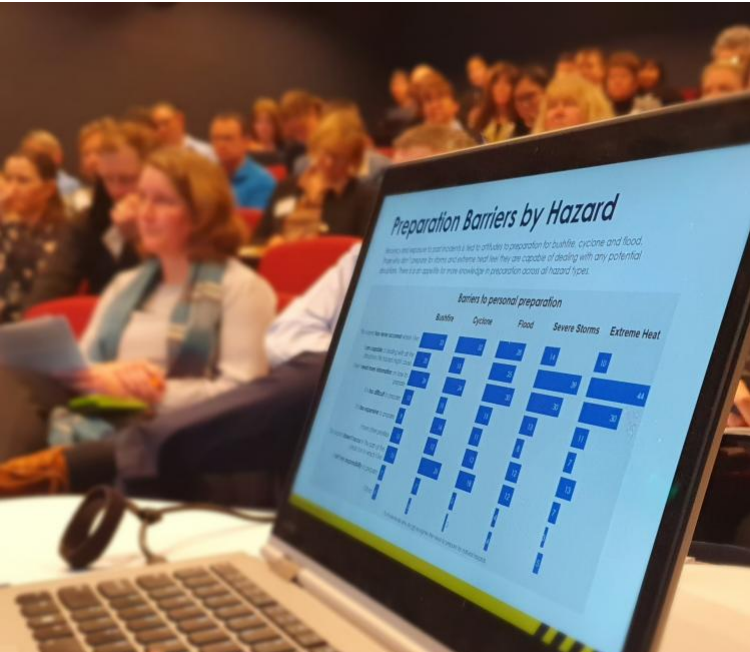
[38]



19 NOV 2019

CRC science making national impact  
FIRE, FIRE SEVERITY

[39]



Research guides communications with community  
CHILD-CENTRED, COMMUNICATION

01 OCT 2019

[40]



Leading the way in pet preparedness  
ANIMALS, COMMUNITIES

26 SEP 2019

[41]





19 AUG 2019

Collaboration is key for communications cluster success  
CLIMATE CHANGE, COMMUNICATION

[42]



14 MAY 2019

Becoming fire-fit: preparing for the unexpected and unimagined  
COMMUNITIES, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

[43]





12 DEC 2018

Emergency planning for animals  
ANIMALS, COMMUNITIES

[44]



07 DEC 2018

Preparing for the future focus of magazine  
CYCLONE, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

[45]



06 DEC 2018

Research benefits flowing  
DECISION MAKING, FIRE

[46]



15 NOV 2018

New online – November 2018  
EARTHQUAKE, MODELLING

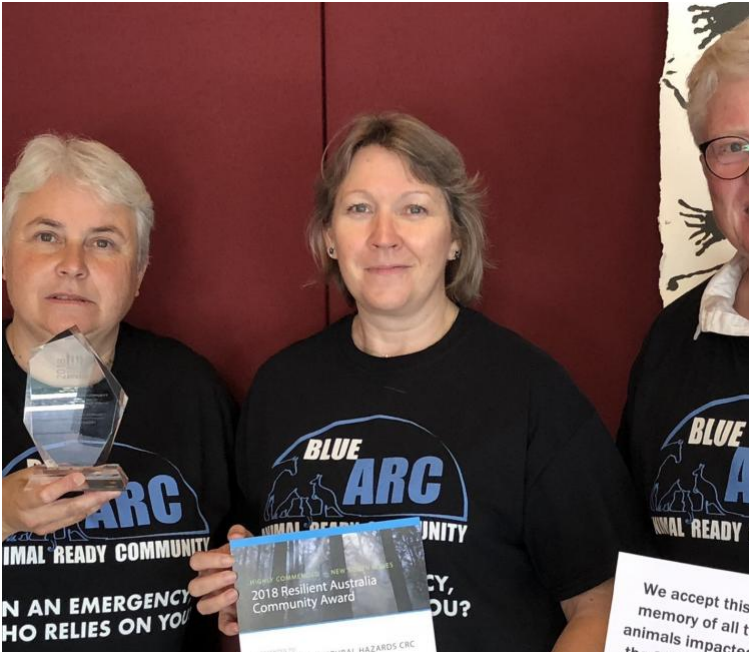
[47]



26 OCT 2018

Wrangling llamas in the laundry, the scratchy bits and the bitey end, stockings for muzzles, and keeping out of the kicking zone!  
ANIMALS, COMMUNITIES

[48]



22 OCT 2018

Recognition for animal research  
ANIMALS, COMMUNITIES

[49]





19 SEP 2018

Three notable contributions at AFAC18  
ANIMALS, CHILD-CENTRED

[50]



21 AUG 2018

New online - August 2018  
CHILD-CENTRED, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

[51]





Animal research awarded  
ANIMALS, COMMUNICATION

12 JUN 2018

[52]



New online - May 2018

21 MAY 2018

[53]



Lessons learnt post-disaster  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, MITIGATION

04 MAY 2018

[54]



New online - December 2017  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, LAND MANAGEMENT

19 DEC 2017

[55]



18 DEC 2017

Emergency planning for animals  
ANIMALS, COMMUNITIES

[56]



15 DEC 2017

Managing animals in emergencies  
ANIMALS, RESILIENCE

[57]





15 DEC 2017

Collaboration, community preparedness and updated priorities for natural hazards research  
COMMUNITIES, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

[58]



08 NOV 2017

Research featured in Journal  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, MULTI-HAZARD

[59]



# Your voice, their lives.



## Animals in Emergencies Survey

Participants wanted for survey on animal owners' emergency preparedness and planning  
ANIMALS, COMMUNICATION

08 MAR 2017

[60]



New online - February 2017

08 FEB 2017

[61]



28 NOV 2016

Participants needed for bushfire community preparation survey  
ANIMALS, COMMUNITIES

[62]



23 FEB 2016

Managing Animals in Disasters - newsletter

[63]



01 DEC 2015

Researchers recognised by CQUniversity  
CHILD-CENTRED, COMMUNITIES

[64]



15 OCT 2015

Quick science in videos  
COMMUNICATION, DECISION MAKING

[65]





08 OCT 2015

Recognised for fire work

[66]



15 JUL 2015

Animal plans discussed in podcast  
ANIMALS, DECISION MAKING

[67]





14 MAY 2015

Special AJEM features CRC researchers on animals in disasters  
ANIMALS, COMMUNICATION

[68]



20 MAR 2015

Kirrilly Thompson awarded by ABC, UNSW  
ANIMALS, COMMUNICATION

[69]



09 FEB 2015

Newsletter - Communications and warnings cluster  
COMMUNICATION, COMMUNITIES

[70]



24 JUL 2014

Newsletter - Managing Animals in Disasters  
ANIMALS, COMMUNICATION

[71]

## Publications



DATE	TITLE	DOWNLOAD	KEY TOPICS
27 Mar 2014	Managing animals in disasters [215]	1.74 MB	communities [217], resili
24 Jul 2014	MAiD newsletter 1 - July 2014 [219]	387.93 KB	(387.93 KB)
08 Sep 2014	Managing animals in disasters (MAiD) [221]	2.02 MB	emergency management
27 Oct 2014	Managing animals in disasters (MAiD): Experiences of emergency services personnel [224]		animals [2], emergency management
27 Oct 2014	Out of sight, out of mind: Increasing the disaster resilience of homeless people [225]		animals [2], risk management [4]
10 Apr 2015	Managing Animals in Disasters 2015 NSW RAF Presentation [226]	2.09 MB	emergency management
11 Sep 2015	The integration of informal volunteers into animal emergency management [229]	2.23 MB	risk management [4]
21 Oct 2015	Turning warnings into action [231]	236.32 KB	[3], tsunami [233], wa
25 Nov 2015	Managing Animals in Disasters - project overview video [235]	0 bytes	communication [3], risk
18 Apr 2017	Managing Animals in Disaster [237]	2.04 MB	communication [3], risk
30 Jun 2017	Community taking lead in emergency planning for their animals [239]	645.15 KB	communication [3], com
07 Jul 2017	Communicating and warning: getting the message across more effectively [241]	4.79 MB	[3], flood [243], warn
15 Dec 2017	Fire Australia Issue Four 2017 [244]	5.67 MB	management [223], multi
15 Jul 2019	Community preparedness, warnings and response to 2017 NSW fires [247]	0 bytes	communication [3], communities [21
27 Aug 2019	Promoting community resilience through connection to animals [249]	4.79 MB	[217]
24 Sep 2019	Managing Animals in Disaster (MAiD) [251]	10.73 MB	[228]
16 Dec 2019	Animal ready community bushfire preparedness [253]	0 bytes	preparedness [255]
23 Sep 2020	Keeping Your Animals Safe in an Emergency (Hawkesbury-Nepean region) [256]	2.77 MB	communication [3], risk
23 Sep 2020	Keeping Your Animals Safe in an Emergency (Blue Mountains) [258]	1.48 MB	communication [3], risk
25 Nov 2020	Emergency planning for animals [260]		animals [2], communities [217], plan
18 Mar 2021	Fire Australia Issue One 2021 [262]	5.2 MB	communities [217], seve
13 Aug 2021	Driving change: the evolution of communications and warnings in emergency preparedness, response and recovery [265]		communication [3], communities [21
13 Aug 2021	Hon A/Prof Mel Taylor interview: managing animals in disasters [266]	0 bytes	decision making [268], p
13 Aug 2021	Preparedness 2: Managing animals in disasters [269]	0 bytes	decision making [268], p
13 Aug 2021	The evolution of communications and warnings in emergency preparedness, response and recovery [271]	0 bytes	ion [3], communities [21
13 Aug 2021	Trailer, Preparedness 2: Managing animals in disasters [273]	0 bytes	decision making [268], p

Posters



Managing animals in disasters (MAiD): Improving preparedness, response, and resilience through individual and organisational collaboration

The Managing Animals in Disasters project (MAiD) is seeking to identify and build best practice approaches to...



Managing Animals in Disasters (MAiD): Improving Preparedness, Response, and Resilience through Individual and Organisational Collaboration

ANIMALS [2], COMMUNICATION [3]

The Managing Animals in Disasters project (MAiD) is seeking to identify and build best practice approaches to...



The integration of informal volunteers into animal emergency management. Managing Animals in Disasters (MAiD): improving preparedness, response, and resilience through individual and organisational collaboration

INFRASTRUCTURE [278], RESILIENCE [218]

This project is leveraging current initiatives, programs and research on prevention and preparedness by...





[279]

Managing Animals in Disasters (MAiD): Improving preparedness, response, and resilience through individual and organisational collaboration

[279]

ANIMALS [2], COMMUNICATION [3]

This project aims to identify and build best practice approaches to animal emergency management to enable...

27 AUG 2019

Developing a Hawkesbury-Nepean Animal Ready Community

[280]

ANIMALS [2]

Utilising BNHCRC research as part of the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley Flood Risk Management Strategy



[281]

Flood Risk Communication

[281]

ANIMALS [2]

Key findings: More than 90% of people who drive through floodwater experience no adverse consequences

## Linked Projects

Effective risk and warning communication during natural hazards

[282]

COMMUNICATION AND WARNINGS [283]

Prof Vivienne Tippet  
Queensland University of Technology [284]



[284]

Child-centred disaster risk reduction

[285]

COMMUNICATION AND WARNINGS [283]

Dr Briony Towers  
RMIT University [286]



[286]

Improving the role of hazard communications in increasing residents' preparedness and response planning

[287]

COMMUNICATION AND WARNINGS [283]

Dr Ilona McNeill  
University of Melbourne [288]



[288]

Source URL:<https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/node/237/generate-pdf>

Links

[1] <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/files/managing-animals-during-hazards.jpg> [2] <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/research/topics/animals> [3] <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/research/topics/communication> [4] <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/research/topics/risk-management> [5] <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/research/animalsindisasters> [6] <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/people/mlaylor> [7] <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/organisations/maqrft> [8] <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/people/geustace> [9] <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/organisations/rspca-qld> [10] <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/people/ktompson> [11] <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/node/4665> [12] <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/people/pburns> [13] <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/organisations/anu> [14] <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/people/arichards> [15] <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/organisations/nswses> [16] <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/people/astark> [17] <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/organisations/cfs> [18] <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/people/mcoombe> [19] <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/organisations/safecom> [20] <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/people/mhodder> [21] <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/organisations/delwp> [22] <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/people/pcanham> [23] <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/organisations/act-rfs> [24] <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/people/pcinque> [25] <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/people/sbarber> [26] <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/organisations/tasfire> [27] <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/people/sflint> [28] <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/organisations/dfes> [29] <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/people/sgoodwin> [30] <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/people/rwestcott> [31] <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/organisations/uws> [32] <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/publications/biblio/bnh-5493> [33] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qp8XmDUMnwo> [34] <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/news/2021/protecting-communities-better-warnings-and-communications-online-guide-using-latest> [35] <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/news/2021/wrangling-llamas-laundry-scratchy-bits-and-bitey-end-stockings-muzzles> [49] <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/news/2018/recognition-animal-research> [50] <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/news/2018/three-notable-contributions-afac18> [51] <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/news/2018/new-online-august-2018> [52] <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/news/2018/animal-research-awarded> [53] <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/news/2015/new-online-may-2018> [54] <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/news/2015/lessons-learned-post-disaster> [55] <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/news/2017/new-online-december-2017> [56] <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/news/2017/emergency-planning-animals> [57] <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/news/2017/managing-animals-emergencies> [58] <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/news/2017/collaboration-community-preparedness-and-updated-priorities-natural-hazards-research> [59] <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/news/2017/research-featured-journal> [60] <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/news/2017/participants-wanted-survey-animal-owners-emergency-preparedness-and-planning> [61] <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/news/2016/managing-animals-disasters-newsletter> [64] <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/news/2015/researchers-recognised-cquniversity> [65] <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/news/2015/quick-science-videos> [66] <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/news/2014/newletter-managing-animals-disasters> [72] [http://scholar.google.com/scholar?btnG=Search%2BScholar&amp;as\\_q=%22Managing%2Banimals%2Bin%2Bdisasters%2BMAiD%2B-%2Bimproving%2Bpreparedness%2C%2Bresponse%2Band%2Bresilience%2Bthrough%2Bindividual%2Band%2Borganisational%2Bcollaboration%3A%2BFinal%2BReport%2B2017%22&amp;as\\_authors=Taylor&amp;as\\_occl=an](http://scholar.google.com/scholar?btnG=Search%2BScholar&amp;as_q=%22Managing%2Banimals%2Bin%2Bdisasters%2BMAiD%2B-%2Bimproving%2Bpreparedness%2C%2Bresponse%2Band%2Bresilience%2Bthrough%2Bindividual%2Band%2Borganisational%2Bcollaboration%3A%2BFinal%2BReport%2B2017%22&amp;as_authors=Taylor&amp;as_occl=an) [73] <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/publications/biblio/export/bibtex/5493> [74] <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/publications/biblio/export/xml/5493> [75] <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/publications/biblio/?%5Bauthor%5D=1443> [76]

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