

*A safe community to live, work, play & prosper.*



**Plan for Animal Welfare in Emergencies  
2022**

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## INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 PURPOSE

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 (NPPAD) 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 animals 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.

### 1.2 OBJECTIVES

This plan aims to;

- Provide support and assistance to the Local Emergency Management Arrangements;
- Provide activation mechanisms;
- Provide guidance in relation to responsibilities and tasks;
- Coordinate the function and outline the management structure of animal welfare arrangements;
- Enhance public safety and community resilience through effective planning and management of animals during an emergency event;
- Ensure better consideration of animals and protect them from suffering both during and immediately following an emergency event;
- Assist with reuniting owners and animals both during and after an emergency event;
- Ensure the safety of both animals, the community, road users and emergency services personnel, by impounding stray or wandering animals; and
- Assist to increase community confidence in, and awareness of, animal welfare arrangements and considerations during an emergency.

### 1.3 SCOPE

This Plan for Animal Welfare in Emergencies (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 Kojonup Local PAWE applies to:

- The municipality of the Shire of Kojonup
- All animal owners within the Shire of Kojonup
- 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)

The geographical area covered by these arrangements is the Shire of Kojonup municipality, inclusive of Muradup, Cherry Tree Pool, Boscabel and Jingalup.

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## CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL

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The Shire of Kojonup Animal Welfare Plan has been prepared by the Shire of Kojonup Ranger Services Department, in conjunction with the Shire of Kojonup Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) to address the Shire's legislative responsibility under Section 41 (4) of the Emergency Management Act 2005.

The plan for Animal Welfare in Emergencies (PAWE) forms one part of a suite of documents collectively referred to as the Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA). This plan has been endorsed and noted by the following entities:

Shire of Kojonup Local Emergency Management Committee – Endorsed on \_\_\_\_\_

Shire of Kojonup Council - Endorsed on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
LEMC Chairperson

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Shire President – Shire of Kojonup

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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## VERSION CONTROL

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Suggestions and comments from the community and stakeholders can help improve this document.

Feedback can include:

- What you do or do not like about the document;
- Unclear or incorrect expression;
- Out of date information or practices;
- Inadequacies; or
- Errors, omissions or suggested improvements.

To forward feedback, copy the relevant section of these arrangements, mark the area of proposed change/s and forward it to:

The Chairperson  
Local Emergency Management Committee  
Shire of Kojonup  
PO Box 163  
KOJONUP WA 6395

The Chairperson will refer any correspondence to the LEMC for consideration and or approval.  
Amendments promulgated are to be certified in the below table when updated.

No	Date	Amendment details	By
1	05/04/2022	Initial Draft	Stephanie SWAIN

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## DISCLAIMER

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## ACRONYMS

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The following acronyms are used throughout this document:

The Act	Emergency Management Act 2005
AOC	Animal Operations Centre
AWC	Animal Welfare Coordinator (Shire of Kojonup Senior Ranger)
AWT	Animal Welfare Team
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CESM	Community Emergency Services Manager
DBCA	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions
DEMCC	District Emergency Management Committee
DFES	Department of Fire & Emergency Services
DOC	Department of Communities
DPIRD	Department of Primary Industries & Regional Development
ECC	Emergency Coordination Centre
HMA	Hazard Management Agency
IC	Incident Controller
IMT	Incident Management Team
ISG	Incident Support Group
LEC	Local Emergency Coordinator
LEMA	Local Emergency Management Arrangements
LEMC	Local Emergency Management Committee
LGA	Local Government Authority
LRC	Local Recovery Coordinator
LRCC	Local Recovery Coordination Committee
MRS	Manager Regulatory Services
OIC	Officer in Charge
OASG	Operational Area Support Group
OEM	Office of Emergency Management
PAWE	Plan for Animal Welfare in Emergencies
RSPCA	Royal Society of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
SoK	Shire of Kojonup
WALGA	Western Australian Local Government Association
WAPOL	Western Australian Police



## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

The following terminology has been used within this document with the following meaning implied:

Agency	A Government agency, including Commonwealth, State or Local Government Authority.
Animal	Companion animals, pets, livestock including horses and poultry, wildlife, birds and fish.
Animal Welfare	How an animal is coping with the conditions in which it lives. An animal is in a good state of welfare if (as indicated by scientific evidence) it is healthy, comfortable, well nourished, safe, able to express innate behaviour, and if it is not suffering from unpleasant states such as pain, fear, and distress. Good animal welfare requires disease prevention and veterinary treatments, appropriate shelter, management, nutrition, humane handlings and humane slaughter/killing.
Biosecurity	The protection of the economy, the environment, social amenity or human health from negative impacts associated with the entry, establishment or spread of animal or plant pests and disease, or invasive plant and animal species.
Companion Animal	Any non-human vertebrate animal kept for the purpose of companionship, recreation, protection or work with the following exclusions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Animals kept exclusively for agricultural production on premises legally zoned or licensed for agricultural activities;</li> <li>- Horses kept solely for racing purposes (under Racing Act Provisions); or</li> <li>- Any class, group, type or species declared as being exempt.</li> </ul>
Fodder	Feed for livestock such as hay, or pre-prepared feedstuffs designed specifically for livestock.
Livestock	Animals not normally contained or permitted inside a family residence and would normally stay outside on the property: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Any animal being kept for the purpose of primary production, including but not limited to; cattle, sheep, pigs, poultry, ratites, buffalo, camels, alpacas, goats and deer; or</li> <li>- Horses, including where used for recreation; or</li> <li>- Any animals prescribed as livestock.</li> </ul>
Pets	Small, domesticated animals who are portable and would normally accompany the family when they leave the property, including dogs, cats, rabbits, rodents, fish and tame birds.
Salvage For Slaughter	The processing of animals through an abattoir. Livestock impacted by an emergency suitable for salvage slaughter are those that do not show signs of distress and are fit enough to be transported.
Support Agency	Any agency which provides services, personnel, or material to support or assist a control agency or affected persons.
Triage	The process of determining the priority of veterinary treatment based on the severity of an animal's condition. This rations veterinary treatment efficiently when resources are insufficient for all to be treated immediately.
Wildlife	Any vertebrate animal indigenous to Australia, some non-indigenous vertebrates (deer and game birds declared to be wildlife, any terrestrial invertebrates listed as threatened), does not include fish within the meaning of the Fisheries Act 1995

## 2 PREPAREDNESS

### 2.1 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES - SUMMARY

Name of Agency	Preparedness role/responsibilities
Owner/Carer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is responsible for the welfare of their animals and should consider preparedness for, response to and recovery from an emergency.</li> <li>• Will be encouraged to develop an Emergency Plan that takes into account the safety and wellbeing of their animals.</li> <li>• Animal owners are encouraged to have appropriate items such as transportable kennels/boxes, leashes, bedding, litter catchment, food and suitable transport on standby.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
Local Government (Shire of Kojonup)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has developed and will maintain a local PAWE for its district.</li> <li>• Considers animal welfare in emergencies as an integral part of any community resilience programs or messaging.</li> <li>• Considers any high risk 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.</li> <li>• Will engage with WALGA on local animal welfare issues in emergencies through their representative on the Committee of Animal Welfare in Emergencies (CAWE).</li> </ul>
Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development (DPIRD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinates and supports the development and implementation of plans, policies and procedures for the coordination of animal welfare in emergencies.</li> <li>• Chairs the Committee for Animal Welfare in Emergencies (CAWE).</li> <li>• Promotes public awareness and community engagement to improve preparedness for animal welfare in emergencies;</li> <li>• Promotes and supports LEMCs and controlling agencies for the inclusion of animal welfare considerations in emergency plans.</li> </ul>
Committee for Animal Welfare in Emergencies (CAWE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishes networks and collaboration between the agencies and organisations that are essential to the effective provision of animal welfare support services in the event of an emergency</li> <li>• Has been established (and chaired) by DPIRD to provide a forum to address the maintenance of the State Support Plan (SSP) – Animal Welfare and its underlying arrangements, and to assist in maintaining capacity at a State level.</li> </ul>
The Department of Biodiversity Conservations and Attractions (DBCA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifies considerations relating to wildlife welfare in emergencies;</li> <li>• Coordinates the provision of animal welfare services to animals in the Perth Zoo and advises owners or carers of wildlife and wildlife parks.</li> <li>• Maintains membership on the CAWE.</li> <li>• Develops and maintains an internal emergency animal welfare operational plan, including the Oiled Wildlife Response Plan; and</li> <li>• Develops and maintains lists of potential support personnel available to assist with their responsibilities under the State Support Plan – Animal Welfare, as applicable.</li> </ul>
WALGA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Represents Local Governments on the CAWE.</li> </ul>

## 2.2 RISK PROFILE

The following risks have been identified through the SEMC State Risk Project as 'priority hazards' in the Shire of Kojonup:

- Fire
- Storm
- Flood
- Traffic Accident
- 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 endeavour to seek donations and relevant services to reduce costs where possible. Ref 3.6

The Shire's 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 fortnightly Newsletter "ENEWS".

Prior to Winter and Summer seasons further information can be sourced from the DPIRD, DFES and Red Cross websites.

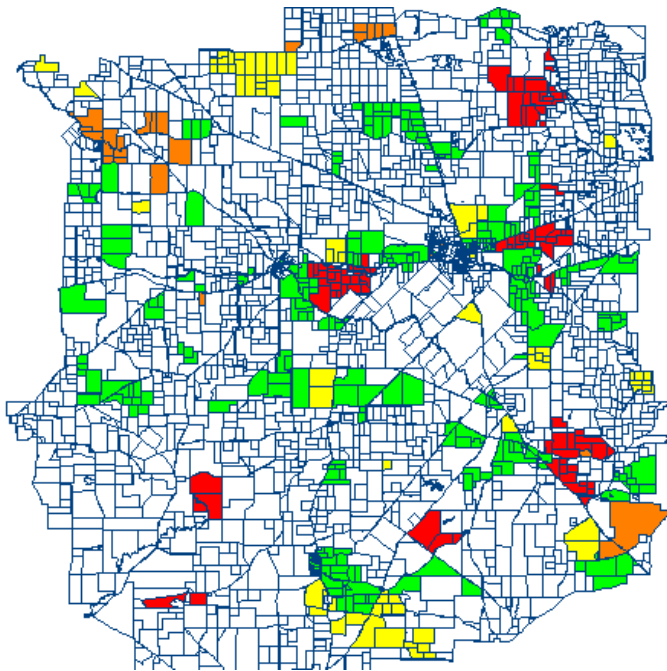
Face to face communications (with Farmers Groups, Schools etc) and at local events such as Agricultural Shows and Field Days should be undertaken. Hard copies of this information will also be provided in written and alternative formats at the Shire office.

## 2.5 NUMBER OF CATS AND DOGS IN THE SHIRE OF KOJONUP

The estimated number of Dogs: 383

The estimated number of Cats: 113

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



MAP SHOWING PROPERTIES WITH DOGS CURRENTLY REGISTERED WITHIN THE SHIRE OF KOJONUP  
Property colour reference - Green: 1 Dog, Yellow: 2 Dogs, Orange: 3 Dogs, Red: 4+ dogs

## 3 RESPONSE

### 3.1 RESPONSE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES – SUMMARY

Name of Agency	Preparedness role/responsibilities
Owner/Carer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are responsible for the welfare of their animals and should consider preparedness for, response to and recovery from an emergency.</li> <li>• Are expected to enact their Emergency Plan at the appropriate time.</li> <li>• Are responsible for costs incurred through private services such as through private service providers, such as veterinary clinics, shelters, food suppliers</li> </ul>
Local Government (Shire of Kojonup)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activate the Local Government PAWE.</li> <li>• Liaise with the relevant controlling agency or HMA as a liaison officer and/or member of the ISG or OASG;</li> <li>• Advise IC of any areas that, due to animal-related activities (such as kennel or cattery zones) may require early evacuation (if required).</li> <li>• Liaise with DPIRD to provide a coordinated approach to animal welfare response actions.</li> <li>• Assist in the restraint of stray stock animals (where practicable)</li> <li>• Assist in the capture and restraint of stray domestic animals (where practicable)</li> <li>• Assist in the identification and reunification with owners of stray domestic animals.</li> <li>• Support DPIRD in the management of disposal of deceased animals.</li> </ul>
Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development (DPIRD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate the provision of animal welfare services to support the owner or carer or local arrangements for the animal categories of livestock, domestic animals and companion animals.</li> <li>• Liaise with the relevant controlling agency or HMA as a liaison officer and/or member of the ISG or OASG;</li> <li>• Contribute to public information released during the emergency;</li> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• Provide situational reports to the CAWE.</li> </ul> <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 organisations to coordinate response activities including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liaison with and advise Local Government and other organisations about suitable temporary containment and other welfare needs of animals.</li> <li>• Provide support and advice on transportation for evacuating animals.</li> <li>• Identify the availability of locations to house evacuated animals.</li> <li>• Identify/provide emergency food / water / shelter.</li> <li>• Manage displaced or stray animals.</li> <li>• Identify and reuniting animals with their owners or carers.</li> <li>• Assess and triage impacted animals and identify/administer treatment.</li> <li>• Perform/assist with transportation for euthanasia or perform on-site.</li> <li>• Activate the Animal Welfare Team (AWT) if required.</li> </ul>

Name of Agency	Preparedness role/responsibilities
Animal Welfare Team (AWT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advise DPIRD of potential and actual animal welfare issues or requests;</li> <li>• Where possible, provide advice, services and/or resources, on behalf of their represented organisation or sector, in response to issues or requests,</li> <li>• Where requested, provide a representative to attend the ISG / OASG as appropriate</li> </ul>
HMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Controlling Agency's Incident Controller will have due consideration for animal welfare issues during the management of the incident.</li> </ul>
Department of Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where appropriate, provide input to information for the public and media relating to alternative animal housing arrangements;</li> <li>• If known, advise evacuees presenting at centres of alternative animal housing arrangements;</li> <li>• Convey information provided by Local Government or DPIRD relating to animal welfare to people in welfare centres; and</li> <li>• Liaise with Local Government or DPIRD in relation to reuniting owners with their animals.</li> </ul>
WALGA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May be the initial Local Government representative on the Animal Welfare Team (AWT) (if formed).</li> </ul>
DFES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use their Emergency WA Messaging Service</li> </ul>

### 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.

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 PLAN ACTIVATION

Activation of this plan will be determined by the Incident Controller (IC) of the relevant Hazard Management Agency (HMA), or the Local Emergency Coordinator (LEC), in charge of the incident.

To activate this plan the IC or LEC will contact the Shire of Kojonup (SoK) through the Manager Regulatory Services (MRS) and advise of the need to commence the plan activation. The MRS will then mobilise the Animal Welfare Coordinator (AWC - SoK Senior Ranger) to implement the plan.

Triggers for plan activation may include such circumstances as:

- Major emergencies such as fire, flood, drought, animal disease outbreak;
- Opening of a Welfare Centre; and/or
- Large scale carcass disposal requirements

In the case of a large emergency event, an Animal Welfare Team (AWT) may also be appointed by the AWC. The AWT will consist of all persons assisting with the enactment of the Shire of Kojonup Plan for Animal Welfare in Emergencies (PAWE).

### 3.2.1 PLAN ACTIVATION (CONTINUED)

Appointment/allocation of roles within the AWT shall be identified and recorded in the appropriate format for reference as required;

- Animal Welfare Coordinator Form (Appendix 2)
- Animal Welfare Team (Appendix 3)

### 3.2.2 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 organisations (professional or private)

### 3.2.3 TEMPORARY EVACUATION CENTRES/SHELTERS FOR ANIMALS

#### *Animal Operations Centre (AOC)*

The coordination of this plan shall occur from a centralised location, which will be known during the incident at the Animal Operations Centre (AOC).

This may be the;

- Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC)
- SoK Pound
- Any other location identified by the AWC dependant on time, place and circumstance.

#### *Pet Animal Shelter (PAS)*

The PAS is the primary housing facility for the shelter of pets that have been rescued, found roaming, or impounded for other reasons during an emergency. Animals are not allowed into Evacuation/Welfare centres with the exception of assistance/service animals. As such, residents must be urged to seek alternative shelter for their animals with friends/family in areas not affected by the emergency event. The SoK Dog Pound, located at the Shire Works Depot on Blackwood Road, is the nominated PAS. A public Display list as outlined in Appendix 8 will be available to the public for viewing outside the nominated PAS 24 hours a day. This list will be updated by the AWT as required.

If due to the nature or size of the event, the PAS is unavailable or insufficient, the AWC shall appoint a secondary or replacement PAS until the emergency event is over. The operational functions of the PAS can be viewed in Appendix 5.

### 3.2.3 TEMPORARY EVACUATION CENTRES/SHELTERS FOR ANIMALS (CONTINUED)

#### *Livestock Animal Shelter (LAS)*

Livestock are a risk to themselves as much as to emergency responders during an emergency event if left uncontained/unrestrained. In consultation with the AOC the AWC will identify the nearest appropriate property or paddock in which to temporarily hold/detain the livestock.

During periods of sufficient staff resourcing attempts may be made to identify and contact the owners of the livestock to advise them of the location of their animals and request they make alternate arrangements for them, where safe to do so.

In the instance where the livestock owner cannot be contacted, arrangements should then be made to transport and impound the livestock at the LAS. This may be at the Jingalup racetrack, Kojonup Showgrounds, Kojonup Saleyards or any other suitable area as appointed by the AWC.

The functions of the LAS are set out in Appendix 6.

### 3.2.4 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 (SSP) – Animal Welfare Section 3.4.4 Managing Displaced or Stray Animals for details and the State Hazard Plan – Animal and plant biosecurity.

The AWC will be responsible for managing stray animals. Additionally under the SSP Police are also authorised to manage the movement of stray animals.

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





### 3.2.5 REUNIFICATION OF ANIMALS TO 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 AWT on this matter.

### 3.2.6 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 HMA 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 Emergency Management Plan section 5.3.3 'Traffic Management' during emergencies. This will be coordinated by the Incident Controller.

### 3.2.7 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;
- Prioritisation 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 organisations 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;
  - Establishing triage sites for assessment and treatment including euthanasia of seriously injured animals.

The Shire, if required, will request local veterinarians to establish a triage facility at a location determined by the Incident Controller.

### 3.2.8 EUTHANASIA, SALVAGE FOR SLAUGHTER AND DISPOSAL

When an animal is identified as needing to be immediately euthanised or sent for salvage slaughter, every effort will be made to contact the owner/carer of the animal and consult with them. Where this is not possible and the animal is suffering, the owner/carer will be notified as soon as possible of the outcome.

It is the responsibility of the person in charge of the animals at the time to arrange for the humane destruction or salvage slaughter of emergency affected animals where the animals will continue to suffer if they remain alive, or where the animals have little or no chance of survival. In situations where the owners cannot be found, indemnity for immediate humane destruction in their absence is provided by the Animal Welfare Act 2002.

Wildlife emergency plans and protocols from DBCA detail the procedures for the euthanasia of wildlife. Under the Bushfire Protocols (which can be applied in other emergency events also) the triage veterinarian is responsible for assessing the need for immediate humane destruction.

Whilst it is prohibited to destroy native wildlife under the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950, registered veterinary practitioners and appropriately accredited officers and volunteers who destroy wildlife in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act 2002 are exempt.

### 3.2.8 EUTHANASIA, SALVAGE FOR SLAUGHTER AND DISPOSAL (CONTINUED)

Western Australia legislation provides the following powers for officers to euthanise 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 authorised officer appointed by the State Emergency Coordinator may contain, remove or destroy an animal in the emergency area (s. 75 EM Act).

#### Disposal

In order to reduce the risk to human health and to avoid adversely affecting morale of emergency personnel and the community, it is critical that animal carcasses are disposed of in a timely manner. The critical need to minimise the risks associated with disposal including biosecurity, environmental contamination and/or the spread of disease mean that it is essential approved disposal methods be adhered to at all times.

There are a number of carcass disposal options available including disposal at an appropriately licensed landfill site, knackeries and rendering facilities, as well as high temperature incineration. Disposal on private and government owned sites such as unlicensed/decommissioned landfill sites may be allowed subject to Section 30A of the Environmental Protection Act. However, this will require the development of a site management plan.

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.

### 3.2.9 EXOTIC DISEASES

The HMA for exotic animal diseases is the Department of Primary Industries & Regional Development (DPIRD).

Such diseases have been experienced in the past decade with both Swine Flu and Avian Influenza.

The WA State Exotic Disease Controller will be the Chief Veterinary Officer from DPIRD shall coordinate the response to exotic diseases using the AUSVET Plan.

The AUSVET Plan provides guidance for;

- Identification of the disease;
- Quarantine of stock and property;
- Euthanasia and disposal of infected stock; and
- Movement or standstill or; stock, machinery, produce and people.

The Shire of Kojonup may be requested by the WA State Exotic Disease Controller to assist in operations implemented once an exotic disease has been confirmed.

### 3.2.10 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 organisations 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.

The capacity of either a LAS or a PAS may also be significantly affected. During the response phase, DPIRD will coordinate, in liaison with the controlling agency or HMA, the provision of additional emergency shelter.

The AWT will coordinate the dispersion of food etc. to both abandoned animals and those at the Evacuation Centre.

### 3.2.11 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.

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.
- 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

A critical contact list is located in Appendix 1.

The information that is utilised for emergency response activities (i.e. hazard size / severity / location, predictions, road closures) should be analysed 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 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The Local Government Act, Section 6.8(1)(c) grants the Shire President the authority to authorise unbudgeted expenses in an emergency.

Subject to approval by the Shire President, the AWC shall be responsible for authorising expenditure in relation to;

- Animal supplies;
- Veterinary expenses;
- Any other items deemed necessary for the function of the animal shelter/s

These expenses shall be recorded in the Animal Emergency Expenditure Form (Annexure 10). Financial management is inclusive of all acquisition, distribution and accounting for funds.

Done correctly it should ensure;

- Streamlining of financial processes and;
- Cooperation between both public and private sectors.

### 3.6 INSURANCE

Under the Emergency Management Act 2005, liability insurance shall be provided for by the HMA for the event to cover all workers and volunteers working in the IMT structure and under the direction of the IC of the HMA.

### 3.7 DATA MANAGEMENT

The AWC shall be responsible for effective and controlled data management when this plan is activated. All relevant forms shall be completed, copied, registered into Synergy and the originals secured for future reference as and when required.

### 3.8 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 organisations.

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)

### 3.9 ESCALATION TO STATE SUPPORT PAWE

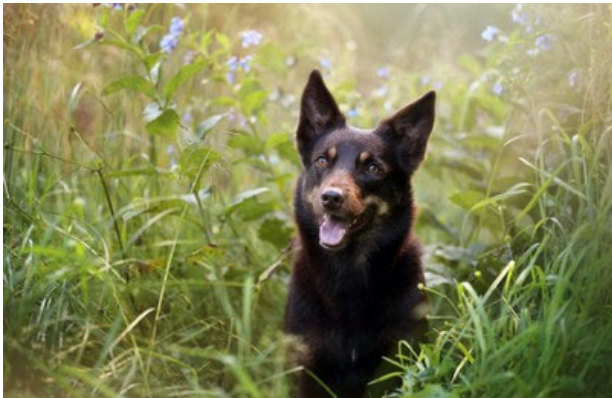
Escalation to the State Support PAWE is in accordance with the State Support Plan – Animal Welfare in Emergencies section 3.2 Plan Activation Procedures:

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.



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## 4 RECOVERY

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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	Preparedness role/responsibilities
Owner/Carer	Owners/Carers are responsible for their animals.
Local Government (Shire of Kojonup)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Include animal welfare considerations in any recovery plan.</li><li>• Liaise with DPIRD to transition the ongoing animal welfare activities back to the control of Local Government and the owner or carer.</li><li>• Ensure that all relevant agencies are included in the Recovery process.</li><li>• Review the effectiveness of their respective PAWE.</li></ul>
Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development (DPIRD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Coordinate the reporting and future investigation of animal welfare complaints arising as a consequence of the emergency.</li><li>• Advise on and arrange for the disposal of deceased animals.</li><li>• Assist owners and carers to obtain Restricted Access Permits, where applicable.</li><li>• Liaise with relevant agencies to transfer responsibility for ongoing animal welfare activities back to Local Government and the owner or carer.</li><li>• Provide advice to the controlling agency or HMA and Local Government on animal welfare considerations, as part of the Recovery Plan.</li><li>• Participate in post-emergency debriefs and reviews, as requested.</li></ul>
HMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Liaise with DPIRD to include animal welfare considerations into the Recovery Plan.</li><li>• Include animal welfare in post-emergency debriefs and reviews.</li><li>• Ensure that public announcements include the location of Animal Evacuation Centres and state the owners’ respective responsibilities in respect to the care of their animals.</li></ul>

Name of Agency	Preparedness role/responsibilities
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist DPIRD in providing animal welfare advice for the recovery plan;</li> <li>• Participate in post-emergency debriefs and reviews, as requested;</li> <li>• Participate as a member of the CAWE in reviewing this Plan; and</li> <li>• Review the effectiveness of the DBCA operational plan.</li> </ul>
Department of Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider animal welfare to the extent possible during the coordination of Welfare Services</li> </ul>
WALGA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure Local Government is represented on the CAWE, via the WALGA member, to participate in reviewing this Plan</li> </ul>
DFES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide alerts and warnings through Media Emergency WA</li> </ul>

#### 4.2 DEBRIEFING/FINAL REPORTING

At the end of any activation of this plan, the AWC is required to facilitate a debriefing session for all workers and volunteers who assisted during the event. The AWC is also responsible for preparing a full report on the event, inclusive of a debriefing report to be provided to both the LEMC and the MRS.





## APPENDIX 1 – CONTACT LIST

EMERGENCY CONTACT LIST		
Organisation Name	Locality	Contact
St John Ambulance	Kojonup	000
Hospital	Kojonup	9831 2222
Police	Kojonup	9831 2555 or 000
Kojonup Volunteer Fire and Rescue	Kojonup	000
SHIRE CONTACT LIST		
Name	Role	Contact
Grant Thompson	CEO - Shire of Kojonup	0419 903 363
Robert Jehu	Manager – Regulatory Services (MRS)	9831 2424 0448 313 235
Anthony Middleton	Manager – Corporate Services	9831 2405
Kevin Bransby	CESM	0499 899 189
Craig McVee	Manager – Works Depot	0427 427 854
Stephanie Swain	Senior Ranger (AWC)	9831 2411 0417 872 914
ZULU CONTACT LIST		
Name	Role	Contact
Tony Fisher	Chief BFCO	0428 311 504
Roger House	Deputy FCO	0428 148 545
Ross Fryer-Smith	Senior FCO	0429 342 202
Nick Trethowan	Senior FCO	0429 341 035
STATE GOVERNMENT CONTACT LIST		
Department	Locality	Contact
Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development (DPIRD)	Katanning	9821 3333
Dept. Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA)	Katanning	9881 9200
Department of Communities (DOC)	Katanning	6277 4100
Western Australia Local Government Association (WALGA)	Perth	9213 2000
Department Fire and Emergency Services (DFES)	Albany	9845 5000
RSPCA WA	Albany	1300 777 222
OTHER CRITICAL RESOURCES CONTACT LIST		
Organisation Name	Purpose	Contact
Kojonup Veterinary Hospital	Veterinary treatment/AWT/Triage	9831 1666
Miotti Transport	Livestock Transport	9831 0076
Matthews Transport	Livestock Transport	9831 1021
Kojonup Feeds	Livestock Feed Supplies	0447 649 020
WA Wildlife	Wildlife care/treatment	9417 7105

**APPENDIX 2 – ANIMAL WELAFRE COORDINATOR FORM**



**ANIMAL WELFARE COORDINATOR (AWC) FORM**

CONSIDERATIONS				
		DATE	TIME	INITIAL
Who is the AWC?				
AWC appointed by:				
What is the threat?				
Is an AOC required?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>			
Does the event cross council boundaries?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>			
Where is the AOC?				
Is an AWT required?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>			

MEMBERS OF THE AWT – FIRST 24 HOURS (ATTACH SECOND SHEET IF REQUIRED)				
NAME	AGENCY	TIME IN	TIME OUT	SIGNED

OTHER AWC ROLE REQUIREMENTS				
		DATE	TIME	INITIAL
Priority / High risk residents notified?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>			
Prepare written briefing on daily operations of AWT/PAS/LAS				
Prepare written briefing on expenditures				
Debrief conducted				

**APPENDIX 3 – ANIMAL WELFARE TEAM**



**ANIMAL WELFARE TEAM (AWT) FORM**

AWT CONSIDERATIONS – TO BE COMPLETED WITHIN FIRST 24 HOURS				
		DATE	TIME	INITIAL
Who is the AWC?				
What is the threat?				
PAS Location:				
LAS Location:				
Where is the AOC?				
Is an AWT required?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>			

MEMBERS OF THE AWT – FIRST 24 HOURS (ATTACH SECOND SHEET IF REQUIRED)				
NAME	AGENCY	TIME IN	TIME OUT	SIGNED

RESCUE DETAILS				
		DATE	TIME	INITIAL
Number of Dogs Rescued/relocated/assisted:				
Number of Cats Rescued/relocated/assisted:				
Number of Livestock Rescued/relocated/assisted:				
Notes to AWC:				

APPENDIX 4 – ANIMAL RESCUE FORM



ANIMAL RESCUE FORM

EMERGENCY RESCUE INFORMATION			
DATE		HAZARD	FIRE <input type="checkbox"/>
TIME			FLOOD <input type="checkbox"/>
			STORM <input type="checkbox"/>
			OTHER <input type="checkbox"/> _____
RESCUE LOCATION		PEN NUMBER	
HOLDING LOCATION			
REASON FOR COLLECTION:			

ANIMAL DESCRIPTION			
SPECIES:	<input type="checkbox"/> DOG <input type="checkbox"/> CAT <input type="checkbox"/> HORSE <input type="checkbox"/> SHEEP <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: _____	SEX:	<input type="checkbox"/> MALE <input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE
BREED:		STERILISED:	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
COLOUR:		M/CHIP:	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
MARKINGS:		M/CHIP #	
AGE:	<input type="checkbox"/> < 6 MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> < 3 YEARS <input type="checkbox"/> 3 + YEARS <input type="checkbox"/> ELDERLY	REGISTERED:	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

OWNER DETAILS
NAME:
ADDRESS:
CONTACT NUMBER:
EMAIL:
NOTES:



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## APPENDIX 5 – ESTABLISHMENT OF A PET ANIMAL SHELTER (PAS)

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Operation of the PAS must include the following tasks:

- Identify each assisted/rescued animal with an ID Number;
- Keep records of all animals in shelter or temporary transit by completing the Animal Rescue Form;
- Ensure animals have fresh water daily;
- Ensure animals are fed at least once daily;
- Ensure animals are exercised at least once daily;
- Secure animals safely in a pen/crate or enclosed location;
- Facilitate the rapid reunion between animal and owner;
- Ensure the Animal Rescue Public Display List is clearly displayed outside the PAS for 24 hour access;
- Ensure the Animal Rescue Public Display List is sent through to the SoK Media Officer daily for publication in print and electronic media.

**Commented [BK1]:** Has this been reference in the plan?

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## APPENDIX 6 – ESTABLISHMENT OF A LIVESTOCK ANIMAL SHELTER (LAS)

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Operations of the LAS must include the following assessments/activities:

- Identify each rescued/assisted animal with an ID Number;
- Keep records of all animals in shelter or temporary transit by completing the Animal Rescue Form;
- Ensure animals have fresh water daily;
- Ensure animals are fed at least once daily;
- Ensure animals are able to exercise;
- Secure livestock in a safe, temporary location;
- Facilitate the rapid reunion between animal and owner.





**APPENDIX 8 – REGISTER OF RESCUED ANIMALS – PUBLIC DISPLAY**

DATE:	TIME:	ID #:	SPECIES:	BREED:	COLOUR:	RESCUED FROM:	PHOTO:



