

Companion animal emergency management in remote communities: Project overview and survey results



OVERVIEW

1. Brief project background
2. Literature review-summary
3. Key results-stakeholder survey
4. Overview of draft guide
5. Discussion-learnings from recent disasters?



PROJECT BACKGROUND

- Northern Australia prone to severe natural hazards
- Poor/limited infrastructure and resourcing
- Emerging area-animals in emergencies



PROJECT BACKGROUND



Legend

- Very Remote
- Remote
- Outer Regions
- Inner Regions
- Major Cities

No known guidance
for remote areas

- Map developed from Australian Bureau of Statistics. 1270.0.55.005 Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 5 – Remoteness Structure, July 2016 (Published March 03/201, 16, 2018).

LITERATURE REVIEW- KEY FINDINGS

- Hurricane Katrina (Gulf Coast, USA 2005) a catalyst for inclusion of animals in emergency plans
- No consistent national policy or formal procedures for animals in disasters
- Available information can be disparate (non-existent for remote areas).



LITERATURE REVIEW- KEY DOCUMENTS

- 2007: 'Keeping our mob safe'-national emergency management strategy for remote Indigenous communities.
- 2014: 'National Planning Principles for Animals in Disasters' (updated in 2021).
- 2020: Remote Engagement and Coordination Strategy by NT Government.



NATIONAL OVERVIEW



Jurisdiction	Guidance-English	Guidance-other languages	State/territory framework?	Evacuation shelters allow pets?
ACT	✓	✗	✗	✓
NSW	✓	✗	✓	✓
NT	✓	~	✗	✗
QLD	✓	~	✗	~
SA	✓	✗	✓	✓
TAS	✓	✗	✗	✓
VIC	✓	✗	✓	✓
WA	✓	✗	✓	~

STAKEHOLDER SURVEY RESULTS

- Relatively low response rate (~21%, n=17).
- Local government, veterinary services, health, housing, Indigenous land council
- Key role in EM is community engagement



ANIMAL CENSUS DATA/DISASTER PLANS

- 4/16 respondents hold current animal census information
- 6/16 respondents have a plan for what to do with animals in a disaster



DISASTER INVOLVEMENT

9/16 respondents have been involved with a local emergency/disaster event in the last 5 years:

- Covid-19 (n=2, all)
- Flooding (n=5)
- *E. canis* outbreak (all?)
- Cyclone (n=4)

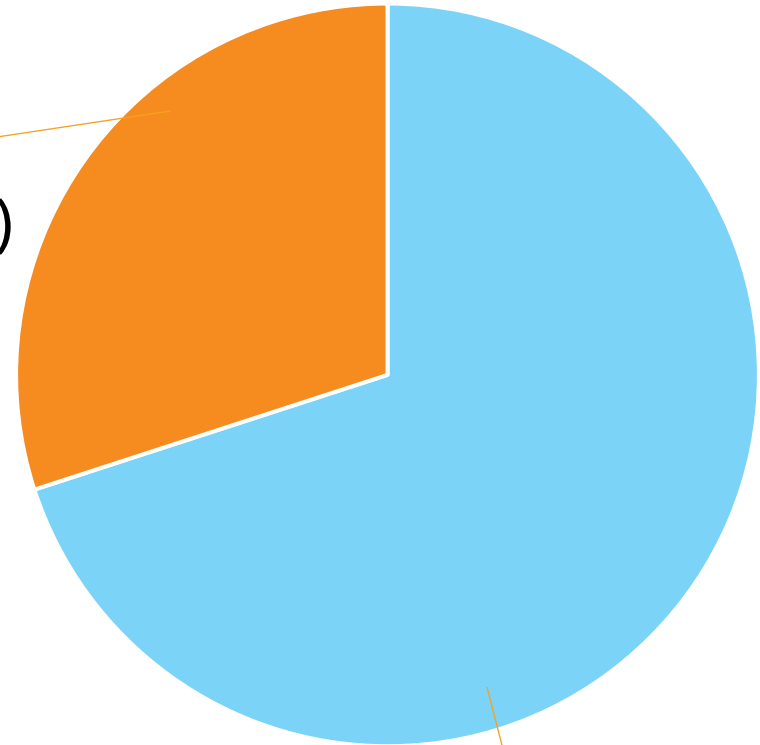




DISASTER PREPAREDNESS



Somewhat unprepared (n=3)

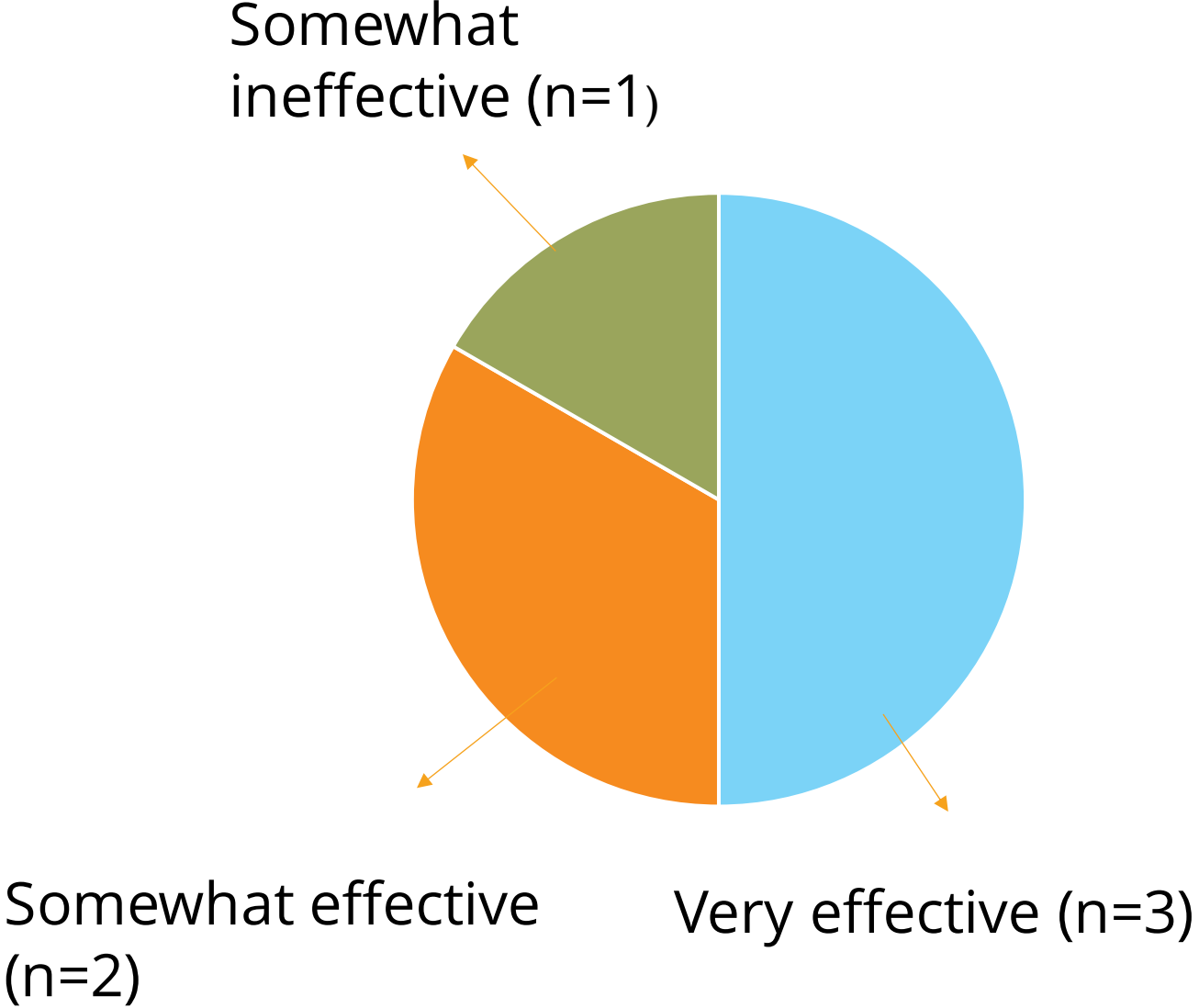


Somewhat prepared (n=7)

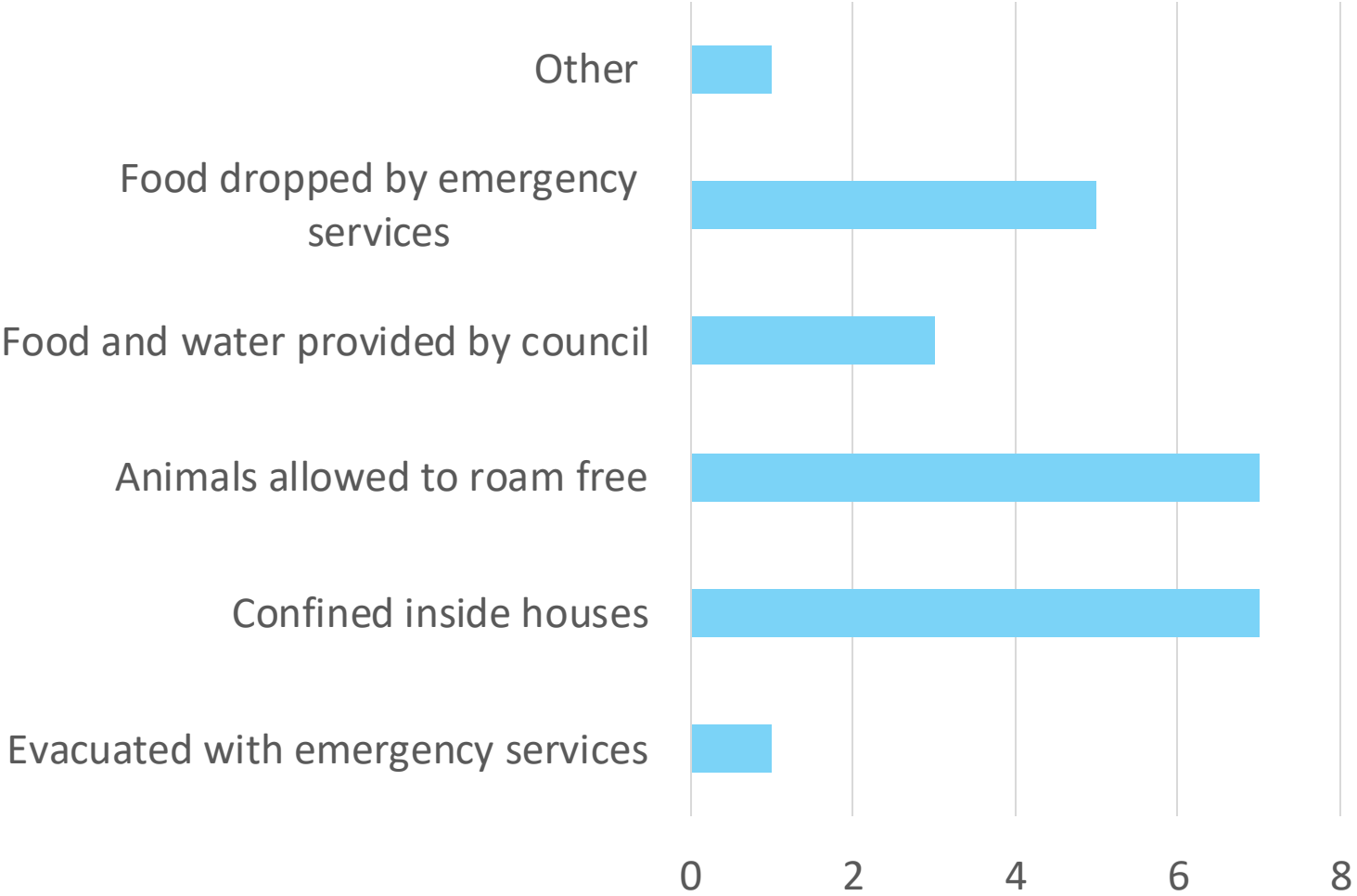
BIOSECURITY AND ANIMAL WELFARE GROUP



Established for a subset of emergency/disaster events (n=6).

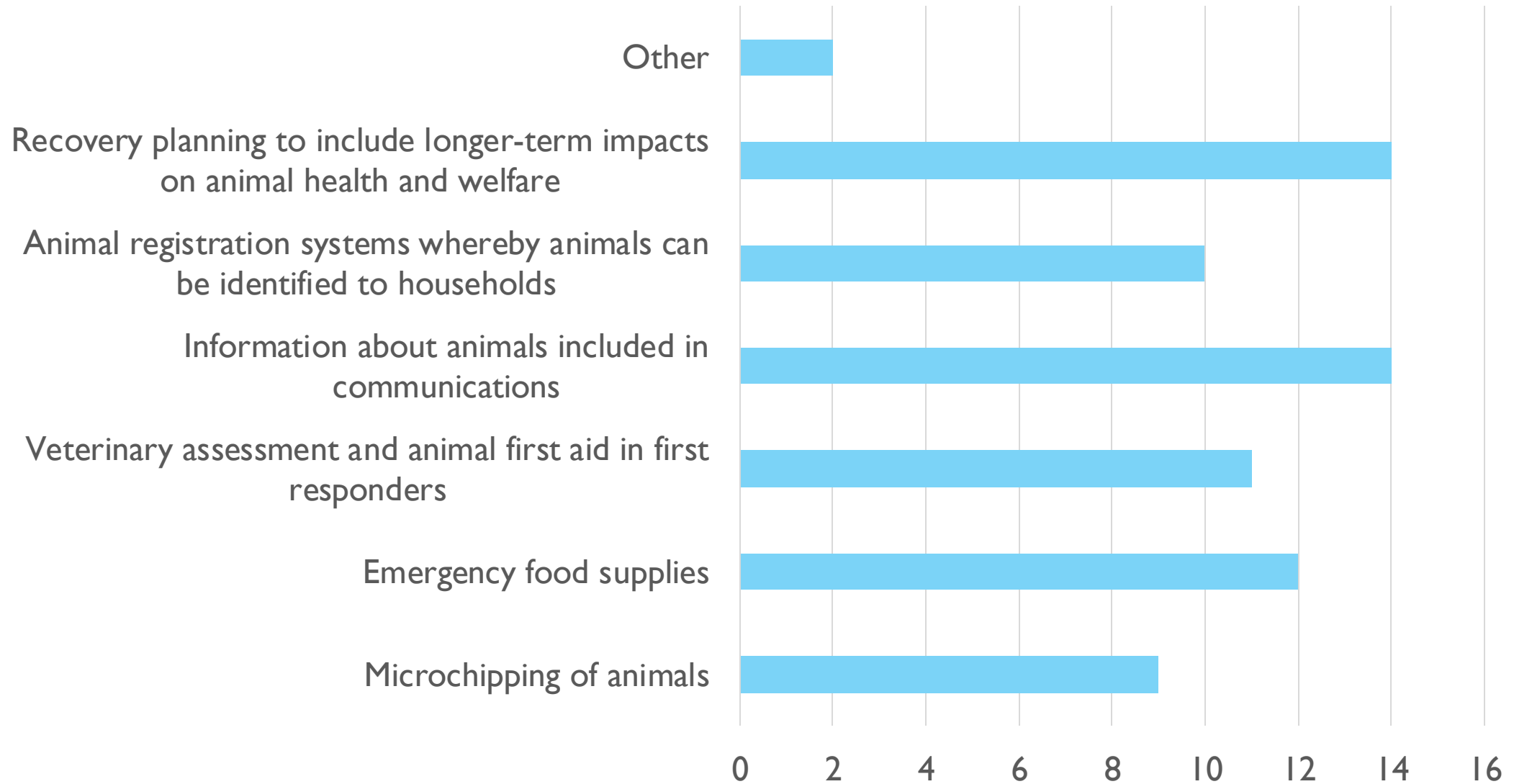


ANIMAL MANAGEMENT IN EMERGENCY EVENT



Respondents advised that the survival rate of most cats and dogs was high (n=8) or moderate (n=2).

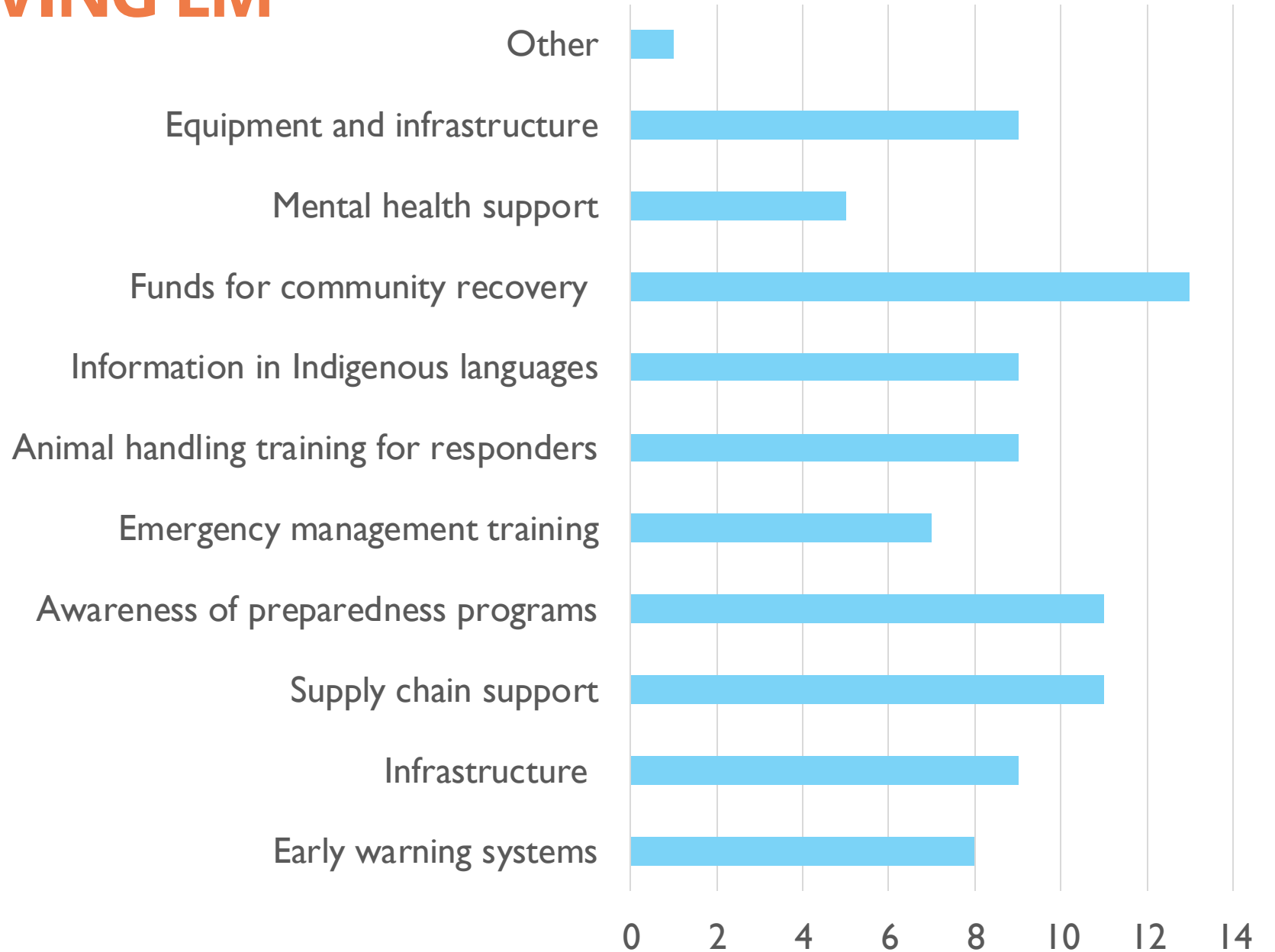
ACTIONS FOR IMPROVING ANIMAL EM



RESOURCES-IMPROVING EM



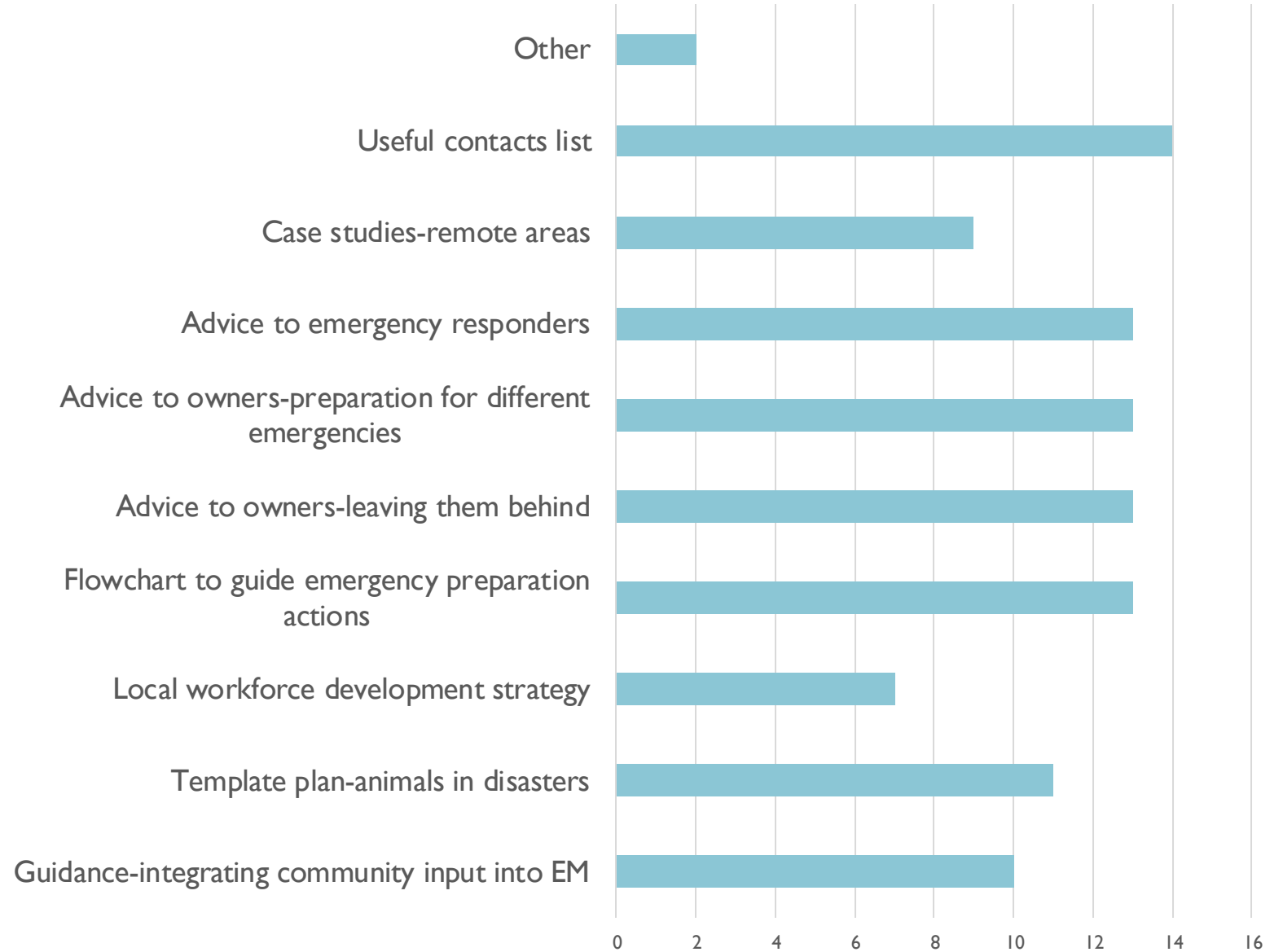
Image: ABC News
(supplied)



GUIDANCE



Image: NT Government
(ABC News)



STAKEHOLDER SURVEY- KEY THEMES

- Improving integration of animals
- Importance of coordination-local/NT levels
- Clear advice-pet owners
- Role of local governments
- Refusal to leave animals behind
- Biosecurity and Animal Welfare Group/Christmas
- Relocation of communities?
- Many complexities



DRAFT GUIDE

- Need for collaboration with Indigenous communities in EM
- Recognises the general principle *“the individual in charge of an animal is ultimately responsible for its welfare in disasters”* is hampered/prevented in remote areas.
- Integration of stakeholder survey results



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT INSIGHTS?



NEXT STEPS

- Review of draft guide
- In-person workshop
 - Emergency scenario suggestions?





QUESTIONS?



General enquiries:
info@amrric.org



Visit Our Website:
www.amrric.org



Follow us on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/AMRRIC>