[COMMUNITY] LOCAL PLAN

- COMPANION ANIMAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

**Background**

In the Northern Territory, formal responsibility for animal welfare in emergency response situations lies with the NT Government, as outlined in the [Territory Emergency Plan](https://pfes.nt.gov.au/sites/default/files/uploads/files/2024/1.%20Territory%20Emergency%20Plan.pdf). However, many locally impactful emergency events — such as bushfires, floods, and severe weather — occur without being formally escalated to emergency response status. In such instances, and even during events reaching formal emergency response status, the needs of companion animals are often overlooked or unplanned for. This is of particular concern in remote Indigenous communities, where residents may be especially vulnerable to such events and, at times, subject to temporary evacuation. Companion animals in these communities hold deep social and cultural significance, playing vital roles in emotional wellbeing, cultural connection, and everyday life. While local government authorities do not have formal responsibilities for animal welfare in emergencies, given their leading role in companion animal management during non-emergency times, they are ideally placed to take a proactive role in planning for the management of companion animals, contributing to both community resilience and animal welfare outcomes.

**About this document**

This Template Local Plan – Companion Animal Emergency Management was drafted by [AMRRIC](http://www.amrric.org/) as part of a series of projects funded by the Northern Territory Government Risk Reduction Program.

Users of this Local Plan template are encouraged to read the companion document - *Emergency Management of Companion Animals in Remote Communities of the Northern Territory: Situational Analysis*, available on AMRRIC’s Emergency Management Resources Hub: [www.amrric.org/emergency-management](https://www.amrric.org/emergency-management/)

The intended audience for this template plan is Local Government Authorities (LGA) or other local organisations with involvement in emergency responses within remote Indigenous communities of the Northern Territory, however similar stakeholders from other jurisdictions may also find the document of use.

Users of the template can work through each Table (i.e. Advanced preparedness, event planning, response actions, recovery actions), determining and documenting their organisation’s plans for emergency management of companion animals during each different phase of emergency events. Within the appendices, users can document contact details for relevant stakeholders and supporters, calculate and document pet food quantities that may be required, as well as work through the decision trees to support companion animal emergency management decision making, It is recommended that the plan be reviewed annually, as well as after each event, and that relevant sections of the plan be printed and/or digitally distributed for quick reference during emergencies. AMRRIC strongly recommends that Traditional Owners, and Indigenous Rangers and/or Animal Health/Environmental Health Workers are involved with the development of the plan.

The template is provided as an editable file, allowing users to modify content as desired. Within the header, users can insert the LGA or organisation’s name, as well as the community/communities that are covered by the plan. Users can additionally add details of who the plan has been approved by, when it was last reviewed and when it’s due for its next review.

Within the planning tables, suggested companion animal emergency management tasks are listed in the first column, with task-specific considerations in the 2nd column. Users of this template can refer to the listed resource/links or add their own in the 3rd column. For each task, it is suggested that specific action(s) required to complete the task be listed (the 4th column), as well as a responsible person(s) nominated for each task (the 5th column). The status of each task can be recorded in the 6th column.

For any enquiries about this template, or suggestions for improvements, please contact AMRRIC: info@amrric.org

AMRRIC’s development of this document has been proudly supported by the Australian Government and the Northern Territory Government.



**General considerations for emergency management of companion animals in remote Indigenous communities:**

* Remote Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory are considered especially vulnerable to natural disasters such as cyclones, storms, floods, bushfires and heatwaves.
* Most remote Indigenous communities lack emergency infrastructure and amenities, making them particularly vulnerable during emergency events.
* Companion animals play important roles in remote Indigenous communities, both as companions and as part of Dreaming stories and cultural beliefs.
* Integrating companion animals into emergency management plans will help to secure animal welfare but will also help support human welfare and safety during disasters.
* Companion animals in remote Indigenous communities are typically free-roaming and are generally not used to being confined, so physical handling of animals (including for evacuation) would be difficult and potentially dangerous.
* Large scale evacuation of remote Indigenous communities may involve transport to emergency shelter facilities in Darwin, Katherine or Alice Springs. Most emergency transport options and emergency shelters in the NT do not allow pets.
* The availability of commercial pet food in remote Indigenous communities is variable.
* High levels of socio-economic disadvantage limit the ability of pet owners to prepare an ‘emergency kit’ (for their household, or their pets), and to self-evacuate.
* In some situations (e.g., mass evacuations), companion animals in remote communities are likely to be left behind .
* A lack of Territory-wide companion animal legislation means that the systems (e.g. microchipping for identification and reunification, registration systems for data on populations) by which animals may otherwise be managed are often non-existent.

**CONTENTS:**

[**Advanced Preparation (e.g. pre-season)**](#_ADVANCED_PLANNING_(PRE-SEASON))

[**Event Planning/Preparation**](#_EVENT_PLANNING/PREPARATION)

[**Response Actions**](#_RESPONSE_ACTIONS)

[**Recovery**](#_RECOVERY_ACTIONS)

[**Appendix 1 – Stakeholder Mapping**](#_APPENDIX_1_–)

[**Appendix 2 – ‘Animals at this house’ Sheet**](#_APPENDIX_2_–)

[**Appendix 3 – Census and Food Planning Guide**](#_APPENDIX_3_–_1)

[**Appendix 4 – Response Action Decision Trees**](#_APPENDIX_4_–)

| **Task & Rationale** | **Considerations** | **Relevant links/resources** | **Outcome Or Further Action(s) To Be Taken** | **Responsible Person(s) / Organisation(s)** | **STATUS** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Identify the types of emergency events which are likely to impact on companion animals  | * The specific hazards, risks and vulnerabilities that apply to each community are influenced by each community’s geography and unique characteristics.
* Consider the history of emergencies affecting the community, as well as predictions for future events.
 | Australian Disaster Resilience Index: <https://adri.bnhcrc.com.au/#!/> | The emergency events most likely to impact companion animal management for this community are:[ ]  Cyclone [ ]  Severe Storm [ ]  Flooding [ ]  Fire [ ]  Heatwave[ ]  Earthquake [ ]  Tsunami |  | [ ]  Not applicable[ ]  Completed |
| Integration of *Local Plan - Companion Animal Emergency Management* (i.e. this plan) within Local Emergency Plans | * Ensure Local Emergency Plans have been developed with the input and support of the community
* Noting from experience of previous events that some residents refuse to evacuate if they cannot take their pets, consider undertaking pet-owning resident survey to ascertain appetite to stay/leave to assist focus of planning
* Ensure companion animal plans are informed by current local community hazard mapping
 | Local Emergency Plans available: <https://pfes.nt.gov.au/emergency-service/emergency-management>  | [LGA] to action via involvement in Local Emergency Committee | TBA | [ ]  Not applicable[ ]  Completed |
| Conduct/review stakeholder mapping to identify stakeholders relevant to emergency responses involving companion animals. Undertake a capacity assessment, documenting available capacity for each phase of planning, as well as identifying any capacity gaps. Explore avenues for external support where capacity gaps identified. | * Ensure stakeholder mapping considers collaboration with other local organisations, as well as neighbouring community organisations where relevant
* Consider on-ground capacity (e.g. veterinary/animal health responders, community engagement etc), as well as remote support (e.g. veterinary telemedicine services) if additionally required
	+ Determine if specific funding required for external responders, and if so, how their involvement would be funded
* Community-wide veterinary assessments are recommended for:
	+ any community-wide evacuations of >48hr duration
	+ severe events with animal injuries and mortalities reported
 | Appendix 1 - Stakeholder Mapping  |  [LGA] to action | TBA | [ ]  Not applicable[ ]  Completed |
| Training for response staff | * All likely responders recommended to undertake dog safety training
* Responders likely to be assessing animals recommended to be trained in safe animal handling, basic animal first aid and the cultural significance of companion animals for remote Indigenous communities
* Non-veterinary responders likely to be involved with euthanasia of animals recommended to be trained in humane euthanasia of species likely to be encountered
 | AMRRIC has a range of staff training resources: [www.amrric.org/emergency-management](http://www.amrric.org/emergency-management) | [LGA] to action in consideration of likely involvement with on-ground responses | TBA | [ ]  Not applicable[ ]  Completed |
| Annual local stakeholder meeting to review Local Emergency Plan (including Local Plan – Companion Animal Emergency Management) | * Ensure Local Emergency Plans have been developed with the input and support of the community
 | Appendix 1 - Stakeholder Mapping  | [LGA] to action in conjunction with Local Emergency Committee | TBA | [ ]  Not applicable[ ]  Completed |
| Inclusion of pet emergency planning messaging within organisation’s annual communications plan | * Time messaging in relation to lead up to high-risk periods
* Communication should occur in a language and format that is accessible to the community
 | AMRRIC has a range of community-focused social media and community resources:[www.amrric.org/emergency-management](http://www.amrric.org/emergency-management) | Noting no other agency has designated responsibility for this task during events which have not been formally activated as emergency responses, [LGA] to consider role and action where required.During events which have been formally activated as an emergency response, [LGA] to action in conjunction with Local Emergency Controller and Animal Welfare Functional Group/NT DAF (see Response Table) | TBA | [ ]  Not applicable[ ]  Completed |
| Obtain/ensure access to companion animal census data | * A door-to-door census with concurrent anti-parasitic treatment provision generally can cover 40-50 houses per day
* Where current census data is unavailable, the community’s veterinary service provider or AMRRIC will be able to provide an educated estimate of animal populations within the community
 | *Conducting a census:*[Census data template](https://www.amrric.org/literacylevel/literacylevel4/view/census-data-template/)AMRRIC App – contact AMRRIC for informationDocument available census information in Appendix 2: Census and Food Planning Guide | AMRRIC recommends [LGA] undertake annual census and update Companion Animal Emergency Plan (i.e. this document) as new data available. | TBA (ongoing) | [ ]  Not applicable[x]  Completed |
| Determine under what circumstances the organisation would provide pet food | Emergency provision of pet food is recommended in the event of:* community-wide evacuations lasting >72hr duration, OR
* stores supply chain disruptions >7-day duration resulting in:
	+ no pet food available for purchase, AND
	+ significantly reduced human food supplies

NTG Animal Welfare Functional Group holds responsibility for provision of pet food in declared emergency events but LGAs may wish to secure their own supply for events that are significant but haven’t been declared as an emergency. | AMRRIC decision trees: <https://www.amrric.org/emergency-management-of-companion-animals-in-remote-communities-printable-decision-trees/> | Noting no other agency has designated responsibility for this task during events which have not been formally activated as emergency responses, [LGA] to consider role and action where required.During events which have been formally activated as an emergency response, [LGA] to action in conjunction with Local Emergency Controller and Animal Welfare Functional Group/NT DAF (see Response Table) | TBA | [ ]  Not applicable[ ]  Completed |
| Determine organisation’s preferred approach to procurement of pet food  | Options include:* Proactive procurement and local storage
	+ through shop or otherwise
	+ storage must be weather and vermin proof
* Procurement as required during emergency event preparedness

NTG Animal Welfare Functional Group holds responsibility for provision of pet food in declared emergency events but LGAs may wish to secure their own supply for events that are significant but haven’t been declared as an emergency. | Document approach in Appendix 2: Census and Food Planning Guide | Noting no other agency has designated responsibility for this task during events which have not been formally activated as emergency responses, [LGA] to consider role and action where required.During events which have been formally activated as an emergency response, [LGA] to action in conjunction with Local Emergency Controller and Animal Welfare Functional Group/NT DAF (see Response Table) | TBA | [ ]  Not applicable[ ]  Completed |
| Determine organisation’s preferred approach to distribution of pet food  | Options include:* allowing community members to pick up food from a central location prior to likely evacuation
* door-to-door distribution of food by organisation’s staff (or other stakeholders) prior to likely evacuation
* provision of food and water by animal-health-focused emergency responders in the event of a community-wide evacuation

NTG Animal Welfare Functional Group holds responsibility for provision of pet food in declared emergency events but LGAs may wish to consider their approach to supplying and distributing pet food for events that are significant but haven’t been declared as an emergency. | Document approach in Appendix 2: Census and Food Planning Guide | Noting no other agency has designated responsibility for this task during events which have not been formally activated as emergency responses, [LGA] to consider preferred role and action where required.During events which have been formally activated as an emergency response, [LGA] to action in conjunction with Local Emergency Controller and Animal Welfare Functional Group/NT DAF (see Response Table) | TBA | [ ]  Not applicable[ ]  Completed |
| Consider whether provision of pet water containers is necessary | * For pets closed in unoccupied houses, access to drinking water is critical, however in AMRRIC’s experience, many residents don’t have a large bucket/tub that can hold sufficient water over an evacuation period
* Organisations can consider sourcing and proactively providing water tubs/buckets to pet owners to reduce likelihood that pets will be without water during an evacuation
* Large volume tubs/buckets that cannot easily be tipped over are recommended
 |  | [LGA] to consider preferred responsibility for distribution of pet water containers as an advanced preparation activity | TBA | [ ]  Not applicable[ ]  Completed |
| Ensure emergency animal first aid kit is stocked and available or can be readily sourced if required in an emergency | * Basic kit recommended to include:
	+ Wound cleaning materials
		- Saline for flushing wounds (alternatively salt and clean water to be mixed as required)
		- Iodine of chlorhexidine
		- Gauze swabs
		- Plastic takeaway containers to hold disinfectant/flush solution
	+ Electrolytes for oral rehydration
	+ Towels
	+ Collapsible crates
	+ Duct tape
	+ Scissors
* Where required, basic kit can be administered by trained non-veterinary staff however for any injured or sick animals, where possible, veterinary advice (at least via telemedicine, if not in-person) is recommended
 | AMRRIC can provide first aid training for likely responders. | Noting no other agency has designated responsibility for this task during events which have not been formally activated as emergency responses, [LGA] to consider role and action where required.During events which have been formally activated as an emergency response, [LGA] to consider preferred responsibility for having emergency animal first aid kits on hand, and coordinate with Animal Welfare Functional Group/NTG DAF re their deployment. | TBA | [ ]  Not applicable[ ]  Completed |
| Develop a plan for emergency animal euthanasia if veterinary capacity is unavailable | * Within a response, euthanasia may be required on welfare grounds for sick and injured animals that cannot be effectively treated. Where no on-ground veterinary capacity is available (and therefore chemical euthanasia is not an option), a plan for alternate means of humane euthanasia is required.
* In most communities, use of firearms by police will be the only viable non-chemical means of enacting humane euthanasia. Organisations are recommended to seek to work collaboratively with local police, to ensure they are aware of their legislative powers as authorised officers under the Animal Welfare Act 2018 and are prepared to take on this responsibility where possible.
 | Consult with AWFG/NTG DAF, veterinary service provider or AMRRIC for advice on humane non-chemical euthanasia.  | Noting no other agency has designated responsibility for this task during events which have not been formally activated as emergency responses, [LGA] to consider role and action where required.During events which have been formally activated as an emergency response, [LGA] to consider preferred responsibility noting some Local Emergency Plan lists local Indigenous Ranger groups as responsible local contact for animal welfare. AMRRIC recommends [LGA] discuss plans in advance of emergency events, with local police +/- Indigenous Rangers | TBA | [ ]  Not applicable[ ]  Completed |
| Develop a plan for animal carcass disposal where required | * Consult with municipal services to determine appropriate site for animal burials, where required.
	+ Consider potential impacts of high water-table if cyclone/flood
* NB: Animals that have been chemically euthanased require burial in a steep-sided pit at least 1 metre deep to prevent secondary toxicity of any scavengers. Such a pit necessitates machinery and operators.
 | * NT Health – Environmental Health branch or NTG DAF may be able to provide further guidance.
* According to the [Territory Emergency Plan](https://pfes.nt.gov.au/sites/default/files/uploads/files/2024/1.%20Territory%20Emergency%20Plan.pdf), during a declared emergency event, the Engineering Functional Group maintains responsibility for disposal of affected livestock, pets and animals generally
 | Noting no other agency has designated responsibility for this task during events which have not been formally activated as emergency responses, [LGA] to consider role and action where required.During events which have been formally activated as an emergency response, [LGA] to action in conjunction with Local Emergency Controller, relevant Functional Groups and other stakeholders | TBA | [ ]  Not applicable[ ]  Completed |
| For events necessitating community-wide evacuations, determine organisation’s capacity for, and preferred methods of communicating animal-related updates to evacuated community residents | * Previous evacuations have demonstrated that emergency responders’ communicating animal-related updates to residents in evacuation centres can help to alleviate evacuee stress
* Recognise that ability to communicate animal-related updates to evacuated residents may be impeded by network disruptions
* Potential communications methods include:
	+ direct communications with owners via SMS or phone where animal can be identified and owner’s phone number is known (e.g. from AMRRIC App records or ID collars)
	+ sharing content on social media community noticeboards or organisation’s social media channels
		- note that comments can be hijacked; make a plan for moderation or turn commenting off
	+ sharing content on evacuation centre projectors/TV screens
* Suitable content can include:
	+ photos/short videos of assessed animals
	+ short videos of emergency responders speaking to camera summarising animal population assessments
 | * During evacuations, communicating arrangement for pets and animals is listed in the Local Emergency Plan as the responsibility of the Local Emergency Controller and Animal Welfare Functional Group (NTG DAF)
* The Local Emergency Plan notes “no domestic animals are to accompany evacuees [to evacuation centres]. Any self-evacuees with domestic animals will be expected to make their own arrangements for their animals”.
 | Noting no other agency has designated responsibility for this task during events which have not been formally activated as emergency responses, [LGA] to consider role and action where required.During events which have been formally activated as an emergency response, [LGA] to action in conjunction with Local Emergency Controller and Animal Welfare Functional Group/NT DAF | TBA | [ ]  Not applicable[ ]  Completed |
| Prepare ‘ANIMALS AT THIS HOUSE’ sheets, which can be completed by residents in the lead up to evacuations, and securely fastened to doors to assist first responders undertaking animal welfare assessments | * Laminate each sheet to avoid water damage during rain events
* Print sufficient quantities that each house within the community can be provided with a sheet
* Document where the laminated sheets will be stored until deployment
* Plan for how the sheets will be fastened to each door and source fastening materials
* Source permanent markers (one per household?) and store with deployment-ready sheets
 | See Appendix 2 for template sheet | Noting no other agency has designated responsibility for this task, [LGA] to consider role and action where required | TBA | [ ]  Not applicable[ ]  Completed |
| To aid reunification efforts, determine what animal identifications methods are available, and ensure implementation plans in place for chosen method(s) | Options include:* photo records within AMRRIC App – requires pre-event recent census data
* ID collars – waterproof ID collars could be purchased and distributed to community in the event of a planned evacuation
* Microchipping – requires microchip scanner to scan chipped animals, and access to microchip registry (also assumes ownership records are up to date)
 | AMRRIC App – contact AMRRIC for information | Noting no other agency has designated responsibility for this task, [LGA] to consider role and action where required | TBA | [ ]  Not applicable[ ]  Completed |
| Determine organisation’s preferred approach to anti-parasitic treatment provision | * Storm and flooding events are likely to increase burdens of parasites (including those that can transmitted to people)
* Where operating ensure animal management program anti-parasitic treatments are scheduled in lead up to wet season, ideally with long-lasting products administered to cover period of risk
* If non-veterinary staff are to distribute treatments, they will likely require specific training in each of the products to be administered
 | Pending pharmaceutical support, AMRRIC may be able to supply anti-parasitic treatments pro bono.Where no pro bono treatments are available, AMRRIC can supply discounted anti-parasitic treatments NB: dependant on size of order and location of receiver, supply usually takes ~1 month so should be requested well in advance.AMRRIC can provide training an anti-parasitic treatment administration. | Noting no other agency has designated responsibility for this task, [LGA] to consider role and action where required | TBA | [ ]  Not applicable[ ]  Completed |

| **Task & Rationale** | **Considerations** | **Relevant links/resources** | **ACTION(S) TO BE TAKEN** | **RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)** | **STATUS** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Early communication to residents to encourage self-planning for their pets and/or advise of arrangements for pets in the event of community-wide evacuation | * Communications to be disseminated via relevant local avenues (e.g. social media, radio, community noticeboards, door-to-door engagement etc)
 | AMRRIC has a range of community-focused social media and community resources, providing guidance on how to prepare pets during emergencies:[www.amrric.org/emergency-management](http://www.amrric.org/emergency-management) | Noting no other agency has designated responsibility for this task during events which have not been formally activated as emergency responses, [LGA] to consider role and action where required.During events which have been formally activated as an emergency response, [LGA] to action via Local Emergency Controller, in conjunction with Animal Welfare Functional Group, other relevant Functional Groups (e.g. Public Information Functional Group, Welfare Group) and other supporting stakeholders (e.g. AMRRIC) | TBA | [ ]  Not applicable[ ]  Completed |
| Ensure contact details for relevant stakeholders shared and available to those who need them | * Consider hard-copy backups in the event of network failures
 | Appendix 1 – Stakeholder Mapping | Noting no other agency has designated responsibility for this task during events which have not been formally activated as emergency responses, [LGA] to consider role and action where required.During events which have been formally activated as an emergency response, [LGA] likely to be required to play key advocacy role via Local Emergency Controller to Regional Controller, Animal Welfare Functional Group and other relevant Functional Groups (e.g. Survey, Rescue and Impact Assessment Functional Group) re inclusion of relevant stakeholders (e.g. the community’s regular veterinary service provider) within the response. | TBA | [ ]  Not applicable[ ]  Completed |
| Where proactive provision of pet food, water containers, ID collars and/or ‘animals at this house’ sheets is to occur, confirm logistics and distribute items | * See related tasks in Advance Planning Table
 | Appendix 3 – census and food planning guide | Noting no other agency has designated responsibility for this task during events which have not been formally activated as emergency responses, [LGA] to consider role and action where required.During events which have been formally activated as an emergency response, [LGA] to action via Local Emergency Controller, in conjunction with relevant Functional Groups and other stakeholders. | TBA | [ ]  Not applicable[ ]  Completed |
| Confirm availability and resourcing for veterinary support (either on-ground or via telemedicine) if likely to be required  | NTG Animal Welfare Functional Group leads and coordinates animal welfare activities during declared emergency responses, including provision of food, water and shelter and alleviation of suffering an injury for companion animals, livestock and wildlife.AMRRIC recommends at a minimum, community-wide veterinary assessment for:* any community-wide evacuations of >48hr duration
* severe events with animal injuries and mortalities reported

AMRRIC recommends LGAs:* Consider if and how veterinary support will be accessed if required outside of declared emergency responses
* Work with the Local Emergency Controller to advocate consideration for veterinary support within emergency events
* Communicate veterinary support preferences with veterinary service provider and other stakeholders who can support animal health (e.g. AMRRIC, Animal Welfare Functional Group (NTG DAF))
 | AMRRIC decision trees: <https://www.amrric.org/emergency-management-of-companion-animals-in-remote-communities-printable-decision-trees/> | Noting no other agency has designated responsibility for this task during events which have not been formally activated as emergency responses, [LGA] to consider role and action where required.During events which have been formally activated as an emergency response, [LGA] to action via Local Emergency Controller, in conjunction with Animal Welfare Functional Group, other relevant Functional Groups and other stakeholders. | TBA | [ ]  Not applicable[ ]  Completed |
| Ensure census data access for potential responders | * AMRRIC App can be operated offline but ensure devices are up to date with syncing prior to event
* Network and power disruptions may necessitate hard copy access for censuses records stored digitally
 | For any data collected and stored using AMRRIC App, AMRRIC can supply data in the event that on-ground teams cannot access AMRRIC App.AMRRIC:Office: 08 89481768 (business hours Mon - Fri)After hours emergency: 0418 699 627info@amrric.org | Noting no other agency has designated responsibility for this task during events which have not been formally activated as emergency responses, [LGA] to consider role and action where required.During events which have been formally activated as an emergency response, [LGA] to action via Local Emergency Controller, in conjunction with relevant Functional Groups and other stakeholders. | TBA | [ ]  Not applicable[ ]  Completed |
| Confirm methods for communicating animal-related updates to evacuated pet owners where required | * See related task in Advance Planning Table
 |  | Noting no other agency has designated responsibility for this task during events which have not been formally activated as emergency responses, [LGA] to consider role and action where required.During events which have been formally activated as an emergency response, [LGA] to action via Local Emergency Controller, in conjunction with relevant Functional Groups and other stakeholders. | TBA | [ ]  Not applicable[ ]  Completed |
| Confirm readiness of animal first aid kit should deployment be required | * See related task in Advance Planning Table for recommendations on kit inclusions
* If veterinary assessment is planned to occur, vet teams will likely have their own, more comprehensive, animal first aid kit
 |  | Noting no other agency has designated responsibility for this task during events which have not been formally activated as emergency responses, [LGA] to consider role and action where required.During events which have been formally activated as an emergency response, [LGA] to action, ensuring coordination via Local Emergency Controller, with Animal Welfare Functional Group (NTG DAF) and other relevant stakeholder (e.g. the community’s regular veterinary service provider and/or AMRRIC). | TBA | [ ]  Not applicable[ ]  Completed |
| Confirm willingness of police (or other stakeholders) to humanely euthanase animals where required, if veterinary/chemical euthanasia is not available | * See related task in Advance Planning Table
 |  | Noting no other agency has designated responsibility for this task during events which have not been formally activated as emergency responses, [LGA] to consider role and action where required.During events which have been formally activated as an emergency response, [LGA] to consider preferred responsibility noting some Local Emergency Plan lists local Indigenous Ranger groups as responsible local contact for animal welfare. AMRRIC recommends [LGA] discuss plans in advance of emergency events, with local police +/- Indigenous Rangers | TBA | [ ]  Not applicable[ ]  Completed |
| Confirm plan for burial of animal carcasses if required | * See related task in Advance Planning Table
 | * NT Health – Environmental Health branch or NTG DAF may be able to provide further guidance.
* According to the [Territory Emergency Plan](https://pfes.nt.gov.au/sites/default/files/uploads/files/2024/1.%20Territory%20Emergency%20Plan.pdf), during a declared emergency event, the Engineering Functional Group maintains responsibility for disposal of affected livestock, pets and animals generally
 | Noting no other agency has designated responsibility for this task during events which have not been formally activated as emergency responses, [LGA] to consider role and action where required.During events which have been formally activated as an emergency response, [LGA] to action in conjunction with Local Emergency Controller, relevant Functional Groups and other stakeholders | TBA | [ ]  Not applicable[ ]  Completed |
| *For cyclones, storms and flooding:*Consider timing of event in relation to anti-parasitic treatment schedule within community | * Sourcing anti-parasitic treatments is recommended if:
	+ event coincides with animals being due for treatment within the next month, OR
	+ if animals have not received any community-wide treatments within the last 3 months
 | Pending pharmaceutical support, AMRRIC may be able to supply anti-parasitic treatments pro bono.Where no pro bono treatments are available, AMRRIC can supply discounted anti-parasitic treatments NB: dependant on size of order and location of receiver, supply usually takes ~1 month so should be requested well in advance. | Noting no other agency has designated responsibility for this task, [LGA] to consider role and action where required | TBA | [ ]  Not applicable[ ]  Completed |

| **Task & Rationale** | **Considerations** | **Relevant links/resources** | **ACTION(S) TO BE TAKEN** | **RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)** | **STATUS** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Contact authorities (e.g. Local Emergency Controller and AWFG/NTG DAF) or AMRRIC in emergency events where animal welfare has been compromised | The pathway to activating the NT Animal Welfare Functional Group (NTG DAF) is via a request from the Local Emergency Controller. The prime responsibilities (in relation to animal welfare) of the NT Animal Welfare Functional Group are: * In a disaster situation affecting the NT, coordinate the care, treatment and (where appropriate humane euthanasia) of domestic and commercial animals and wildlife through the activities of government, veterinary clinics and private animal care organisations, local government and contractors at the request of the Incident Controller.

In circumstances where AWFG have not been activated but animal welfare support is still required, contact AMRRIC for support. | AWFG – contact via event’s Local Emergency Controller (NT Police) AMRRIC:Office: 08 89481768 (business hours Mon - Fri)After hours emergency: 0418 699 627info@amrric.org | [LGA] to action as needed; coordinate with Indigenous Rangers where relevant (i.e. if listed in [Community] Local Emergency Plan as having responsibility for animal welfare). | TBA | [ ]  Not applicable[ ]  Completed |
| Deploy on-ground animal health assessments if required | In declared emergency events, NT Animal Welfare Functional Group (NTG DAF) hold prime responsibility for coordinating animal welfare support. * Where animal health assessments are required, AMRRIC recommends the following options (listed in order of reducing preference)
1. On-ground veterinary assessment
2. Animal health assessment and first aid provision by non-veterinarians under veterinary telemedicine direction
3. Animal health assessment and first aid provision by trained non-veterinarians without veterinary guidance
* Euthanasia may be required; ensure carcass disposal plan is actionable or develop alternative plan
 | See animal health assessments decision tree – Appendix 4 to determine if on-ground animal health assessments are required | Noting no other agency has designated responsibility for this task during events which have not been formally activated as emergency responses, [LGA] to consider role and action as required.During events which have been formally activated as an emergency response, [LGA] encouraged to coordinate with Animal Welfare Functional Group (NTG DAF) (via Local Emergency Controller) and other relevant stakeholders (e.g. the community’s regular veterinary service provider and/or AMRRIC) given [LGA]’s existing role in non-emergency companion animal management. | TBA | [ ]  Not applicable[ ]  Completed |
| Where available and animal populations are due, distribute anti-parasitic treatments as part of animal health assessments | * See related task in Event Planning/Preparation Table
 |  | Noting no other agency has designated responsibility for this task, [LGA] to consider role and action as required. | TBA | [ ]  Not applicable[ ]  Completed |
| If required, distribute emergency pet food and water  | * See related task in Advance Planning Table
 | Use food and water provision by emergency responders decision tree – Appendix 4, to determine if emergency pet food and water provision is necessary | Noting no other agency has designated responsibility for this task during events which have not been formally activated as emergency responses, [LGA] to consider role and action as required.During events which have been formally activated as an emergency response, given [LGA]’s existing role in non-emergency companion animal management, [LGA] encouraged to coordinate with Animal Welfare Functional Group (NTG DAF) (via Local Emergency Controller) and other relevant stakeholders (e.g. the community’s regular veterinary service provider and/or AMRRIC). | TBA | [ ]  Not applicable[ ]  Completed |
| Where relevant, commence communication to evacuated residents regarding the status of their pets | * See related task in Advance Planning Table
 |  | Given [LGA]’s existing role in non-emergency companion animal management, [LGA] encouraged to coordinate via Local Emergency Controller with Emergency Response communications to ensure advice on pets is included among public messaging. | TBA | [ ]  Not applicable[ ]  Completed |
| Utilise census records (if recent) to assist in identifying missing/displaced animals | * See related task in Event Planning/Preparation Table
 |  | Noting no other agency has designated responsibility for this task, [LGA] to consider role and action as required. | TBA | [ ]  Not applicable[ ]  Completed |

| **Task & Rationale** | **Considerations** | **Relevant links/resources** | **ACTION(S) TO BE TAKEN** | **RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)** | **STATUS** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Assisting communities to access pet food supplies where supply chains remain disrupted | * See related task in Advance Planning Table
 | Food may be available pro bono – AMRRIC can explore and advise on available options | Noting no other agency has designated responsibility for this task during events which have not been formally activated as emergency responses, [LGA] to consider role and action as required.During events which have been formally activated as an emergency response, given [LGA]’s existing role in non-emergency companion animal management, [LGA] encouraged to coordinate with Animal Welfare Functional Group (NTG DAF) (via Local Emergency Controller) and other relevant stakeholders (e.g. the community’s regular veterinary service provider and/or AMRRIC). | TBA | [ ]  Not applicable[ ]  Completed |
| Animal-welfare focused food and water support for animals in households where residents have not yet returned | * See related task in Advance Planning Table
 |  | Noting no other agency has designated responsibility for this task during events which have not been formally activated as emergency responses, [LGA] to consider role and action as required.During events which have been formally activated as an emergency response, given [LGA]’s existing role in non-emergency companion animal management, [LGA] encouraged to coordinate with Animal Welfare Functional Group (NTG DAF) (via Local Emergency Controller) and other relevant stakeholders (e.g. the community’s regular veterinary service provider and/or AMRRIC). | TBA | [ ]  Not applicable[ ]  Completed |
| For events resulting in hot and humid conditions, anti-parasitic treatment distribution where available (if not part of response activities) | * See related task in Advance Planning Table
 |  | Noting no other agency has designated responsibility for this task, [LGA] to consider role and action as required. | TBA | [ ]  Not applicable[ ]  Completed |
| For events resulting in protracted periods of resident evacuation, make a plan for the management of animals  | * Where an event results in significant infrastructure damage, it may be weeks or even months before the community is able to return. In some circumstances, it may be unsafe (for both animals and reconstruction workers) for the animals to remain within the community. In these circumstances, a plan must be developed regarding the ongoing management of the animals.
* The plan should be developed in consultation with the evacuated residents (especially considering the views and wishes of the animal owners), as well as stakeholders such as AWFG, AMRRIC and the community’s veterinary service provider.
* The feasibility of solutions planned will vary depending on the size of the community, its location, the size and typical husbandry of the animal populations, as well as the availability of alternative locations to house the animals.
 | AMRRIC can provide advice and support with planning in these circumstances:AMRRIC:Office: 08 89481768 (business hours Mon - Fri)After hours emergency: 0418 699 627info@amrric.org | Noting no other agency has designated responsibility for this task during events which have not been formally activated as emergency responses, [LGA] to consider role and action as required.During events which have been formally activated as an emergency response, given [LGA]’s existing role in non-emergency companion animal management, [LGA] encouraged to coordinate with Animal Welfare Functional Group (NTG DAF) (via Local Emergency Controller) and other relevant stakeholders (e.g. the community’s regular veterinary service provider and/or AMRRIC). | TBA | [ ]  Not applicable[ ]  Completed |
| Review and identify areas for improvement within *Local Plan - Companion Animal Emergency Management* (i.e. this plan)  | * Reflect on the event and amend this plan to ensure it continues to be relevant and incorporates lessons learnt from recent events.
 |  | [LGA] to action | TBA | [ ]  Not applicable[ ]  Completed |

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| **Summary of routine companion animal management occurring within region** | Organisation responsible for companion animal health/ management program: |  |
| Frequency of veterinary services: |  |
| Frequency of community-wide anti-parasitic treatments: |  |

| **Stakeholder Type** | **Name and contact details** | **Potential role in companion animal emergency management actions** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Organisation’s nominated lead for Implementation of Local Plan - Companion Animal Emergency Management**  |  |  |
| **Animal Management Program Manager**[ ]  Applicable. [ ]  Not applicable |  |  |
| **Animal Management Program Staff**[ ]  Applicable. [ ]  Not applicable |  |  |
| **Veterinary Service Provider**[ ]  Applicable. [ ]  Not applicable |  | *[[LGA]/vet service provider to confirm: May be able to:** *provide estimates of populations or census data*
* *advise on appropriateness of companion animal emergency management plans*
* *provide on-ground or telemedicine support]*
 |
| For Local Government Authorities:**Organisation’s nominated lead for management of Local Emergency Plan**[ ]  Applicable. [ ]  Not applicable |  |  |
| **Organisation’s Communications Manager**  |  | *[[LGA] to review. AMRRIC suggests collaborating with this person in the development and implementation of animal-related communications plans]* |
| **Local Store** |  | *[[LGA] to confirm: May be able to assist with pet food supply logistics]* |
| **Local Radio** |  | *[[LGA] to confirm: May be able to assist with communications to residents]* |
| **Local Police** | [Community] Police Station | *[[LGA] to confirm: May be able to assist with humane euthanasia where chemical euthanasia is not an option]* |
| **Indigenous Ranger Group** |  | *[[LGA] to confirm: May be able to assist with event communications, as well as pet food, ID collar and water container distribution]* |
| **AMRRIC**[**www.amrric.org**](http://www.amrric.org) | Office: 08 89481768 (business hours)After hours emergency: 0418 699 627info@amrric.org | Can assist with planning, sourcing pet food and anti-parasitic treatments, veterinary advice and animal health assessments. |
| **NT Animal Welfare Functional Group (AWFG)** | For NT communities, AWFG should be contacted in emergency events where animal welfare has been compromised.Request support via the Local Emergency Controller (NT Police). | Under the Territory Emergency Plan (TEP), the role and responsibility for coordinating biosecurity and animal welfare in emergencies has been assigned to the Animal Welfare Functional Group (AWFG), with the lead agency being the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. |
| **Neighbouring jurisdiction’s animal management program staff**[x]  Applicable. [ ]  Not applicable |  | *[[LGA] to confirm. Where capacity exists, may be able to support emergency veterinary assessment]* |
| **Local animal rehoming groups** [ ]  Applicable. [ ]  Not applicable |  |  |
| **Nearest animal shelter (for evacuation of animals where feasible)**[ ]  Applicable. [ ]  Not applicable |  |  |
| **Other:** |
| **Logistics; Commercial Air Service** |  | *[LGA] to confirm. May be able to be engaged to freight urgent supplies* |
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| **ANIMALS AT THIS HOUSE** |
| OWNER NAME: |  |
| OWNER PHONE NUMBER: |  |
| Total number of DOGS (including puppies):Dog outline |  | Total number of CATS (including kittens):Cat outline |  |



|  |
| --- |
| **ANIMALS AT THIS HOUSE** |
| OWNER NAME: |  |
| OWNER PHONE NUMBER: |  |
| Total number of DOGS (including puppies):Dog outline |  | Total number of CATS (including kittens):Cat outline |  |

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| **1. ANIMAL CENSUS DATA** |
| 1.1 Census data available? | [ ]  Yes[ ]  No à contact community’s veterinary service provider or AMRRIC for estimate | Last census/ estimate date: |  |
| 1.2 Animal populations | Total dog population: |  | Total cat population: |  |
| 1.3 Number and type of other pet animal species (if applicable) |  |
| 1.4 Staff with access to AMRRIC App animal records (if applicable) |  |

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| **2. EMERGENCY PET FOOD PROCUREMENT** |
| 2.1 Ideal quantity of dog food required to sustain pet population per day:*NB: cats are fine to eat dog food in an emergency situation.**E.g. For a population of 300 dogs and 120 cats, supplying pedigree adult dry dog biscuits (recommended feeding weight of 250g per 20kg dog per day):**(300 + (120/5)) x 0.25 = 81kg per day* | CALCULATION:(total number of dogs + ( total number of cats/4) ) x weight (in kg) of food recommended per 20kg dog per day = total kg required per dayNext, determine size of bags available and divide total kg required by weight of bags to calculate number of bags required per day (round to nearest whole number): |
| 2.2 Minimum quantity of dog food required to sustain population for 3 days | CALCULATION:3 x daily quantity (kg) = total kg required to sustain population for 3 days |
| 2.3 Organisation’s approach to emergency pet food procurement | [ ]  Proactive procurement Vermin & weatherproof storage location and access details: | [location and access details] |
| OR[ ]  Procurement at time of incident where required |
| 2.4 Pet food sourcing arrangements | [ ]  Purchasing food | Budget available for food and transport | $[x]Approver: [name and contact details] |
| Nearest/preferred pet food supplier | Store contact details:ALPA Store08 8979 0266Estimate of typical quantity on-hand:NB: If typical quantity on-hand is less than quantity calculated in 2.2, explore and document alternative sources |
| And/or[ ]  Sourcing donated food | Donated pet food supply sourcing contacts: | AMRRIC: 08 8948 1768*[list other local contacts if applicable]* |
| 2.5 Transport arrangements  | *[Insert plan for transport of food to distribution point. Include details of any transport companies that may need to be involved]* |

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| **3. EMERGENCY PET FOOD DISTRIBUTION** |
| 3.1 Organisation’s preferred approach to emergency pet food distribution*[[LGA] to select and add details for those that apply]* | [ ]  Residents advised to pick up supply from central location prior to likely evacuation | *[storage location and access details]*NB: Ensure effective communication to residents advising of availability of pet food and instructions for collection |
| [ ]  Door-to-door distribution of food by organisation’s staff (or other stakeholders) prior to likely evacuation | Nominated food distributor:*[name, role, organisation, contact details]*NB: requires suitable vehicle to facilitate drop offs |
| [ ]  Provision of food and water by animal-health-focused emergency responders in the event of a community-wide evacuation (i.e. post-event) | Likely emergency responder responsible for food and water distribution:*[organisation, contact details, name and role if known]* |



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