

# PET RELIEF CENTRE

## Emergency pet management



## INTRODUCTION

An Animal Relief Centre will only open if there are people and resources available to facilitate this centre.

When a relief centre for animals has been established, the following processes apply:

### **(Insert location)**

The animal relief centre is designed to provide a safe environment to leave domestic pets in the event of an emergency where pet owners are taking shelter in the Council Relief Centre, dealing with health or family matters during an emergency event.



**( list location suburb).**

Pets accepted at the animal relief centre include:

- Dogs
- Cats
- Rabbits and guinea pigs
- Mice, rats and other small rodents
- Birds

The animal relief centre is managed by appointed coordinator / volunteers.

## CENTRE ACTIVATION

The animal relief centre will be activated following approval from the Municipal Emergency Recovery Officer or the delegated officer (MRM).

The need for activation will be made by the MRM/ Relief Centre Coordinator.

Pet owners attending the Municipal Emergency Relief Centre will be directed to take their animals to the animal relief centre.

## ANIMAL RELIEF CENTRE CONTACT DETAILS:

Centre Co-ordinator:

Volunteers:

Stockfeed Suppliers:

Pet Food Suppliers:



## WHAT SHOULD OWNERS DO TO PREPARE?

If leaving early with pets, owners should prepare for their pets as well. Prepare for pets' comfort whilst at the animal relief centre by:

- Developing a Bushfire Relocation Kit for pets and keeping this within easy reach to help with leaving early.
- Having bedding and food ready to go and make sure you can transport them to the animal relief centre.
- Make sure pets can be identified easily. Microchip animals (just in case they get lost) and include details such as owner telephone numbers on collars.
- Practise how to move pets if leaving. It takes longer than you think.

Further information on pets and emergencies can be found at:

- Agriculture Victoria (<http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/pets/care-and-welfare/pets-and-emergencies>)
- CFA (<http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/pets-and-bushfires/>)

## A Pet bushfire relocation kit should include:

- Food and water.
- Food and water containers / bowls.
- Leads for dogs, along with a chain suitable for tethering if possible. If needed, provide a muzzle and any other sturdy equipment that you think will help control your dog, particularly in a stressful situation.
- A cage, carrier or container appropriate to the species, for each small pet (including cats, birds, guinea pigs, fish or reptiles), for transportation and housing purposes.
- If providing a carrier or cage for a pet, ensure it is large enough for the animal to stand comfortably, turn around lie down and have adequate ventilation. The pet may have to stay in the cage / carrier for hours at a time, so include bedding, blankets and any favourite toy to reduce stress levels; and a litter tray that suits the animal.
- Small animals often feel safer if they are able to hide, so place a small cardboard box inside their cage.
- If the pet is a bird, include gloves and any other sturdy kind of equipment that you think will help handle and control your bird, particularly in a stressful situation. Think strong and reliable as your bird may panic and try to escape.

- **Clearly label** each cage or carrier with your contact details. Owning enough carriers to accommodate your pets and ensuring they fit in your vehicle allows for a speedy evacuation.
- **An information list** including your name, address and phone numbers; your pet's name, description and care requirements. If the pet doesn't have a collar, include a photograph of the pet to help with identification.
- Pet medical history, vaccination certificate and vet contact details.
- Pet first aid items and essential medications – including a list of what they are and how they should be given.
- Blankets, towels and bedding.
- Litter for cats or other small animals.
- A favourite toy

### **WHAT THE ANIMAL RELIEF CENTRE MAY PROVIDE:**

The primary responsible person shall always be the animal owner /carer at the time of admission.

The centre will provide:

- A safe location for a pet to be left, with shade / shelter and water.
- Feeding with owner provided food in accordance with normal habits for each pet (when provided). If details of feeding habits are not provided, meals will be provided once per day for each pet.
- Provision of medications as required /instructed by owner.
- Basic first aid if required. Owners must provide consent for the centre to call a vet if required.
- Exercise and socialization for dogs and other animals as appropriate.

## CENTRE PREPARATION PLAN

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION:			
NAME	TELEPHONE	EMAIL	LOCATION



## ARRANGEMENTS FOR PETS

TYPE OF PET	LOCATION IN CENTRE	SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS	IN PLACE?	ACTION NEEDED
Dog				
Unsocial dog				
Cat	Indoors			
Small pets	Indoors			
Reptiles				
Birds				
Fish				