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HAZARDSCRC

MANAGING ANIMALS IN DISASTERS (MAID)

Presentation to the BNHCRC Research Advisory Forum
Wednesday 5th April 2017

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Australian Government
Department of Industry,
Innovation and Science

Business
Cooperative Research
Centres Programme



MANAGING ANIMALS IN DISASTERS (MAiD):

AIM - To identify and build best practice approaches to animal emergency management to enable engagement with animal owners, and other stakeholders in disasters and emergencies.

GOAL - The goal is to improve outcomes for public safety and the resilience of responders, animal owners, those with animal-related businesses, and communities.

PROJECT PHILOSOPHY

- 1) Animals are, and remain, the responsibility of their owners
 - Presents challenges for AEM
 - Where does 'shared responsibility' fit?
- 2) Not all animals can be saved
- 3) MAiD is not an animal welfare project – the focus is HUMAN behaviour



 **Tom Forbes** [@tomforbesGC](#) [Follow](#)

"I'm staying to look after my dogs." Gilberton resident refuses police officer's mandatory evacuation order on Nth Gold Coast. [@abcgoldcoast](#)



PROJECT STRATEGY

1) Phase 1 – AEM in Australia

























- What are the issues for end users and other stakeholders? Scoping (All)
- Laying down a knowledge/research base in Australia (All)
- Where are we with AEM? Audit report (MT, GE)

2) Phase 2 – Different perspectives on AEM

- Those affected – Sampson Flat and Pinery bushfires (KT, LO)
- Those who respond – Case study (SF), Spontaneous volunteers (MM, MT)
- Seeing it from both sides – the Responder-Owner interface (RW)
- **Comparing animal owners and non-animal owners - building a better picture (LO, KT)**
- **Supporting community-led AEM (MT, MM)**



MAPPING END-USER CHALLENGES TO THE RESEARCH PROGRAM

End-user reported challenges in AEM	Phase 2 – Different Perspectives				PhD research
	Spontaneous volunteers	SF/Pinery experiences	Comparing owners /non-owners	Community-led AEM – Blue ARC	Owner - Responder interface
a. The physical management/rescue of animals in natural disasters					
b. Interactions with animal owners during disaster response					
c. Interactions with animal owners in disaster preparedness and planning					
d. Interactions with members of the general public					
e. Post-disaster impacts in management of animals or their owners					
f. The logistics available to respond to animals in natural disasters					
g. Unclear policy or operational responsibilities					
h. Inter-agency coordination around the management of animals or their owners in natural disasters					
i. Co-ordination with non-emergency service agencies					
j. Managing/dealing with untrained /spontaneous animal-related responders					

SURVEY OF TASMANIA

- Online survey
- Originally focussed on selected areas in two LGAs known to have high rates of horse ownership and existing relationship with TFS
- Mail out of information flyer in mid November 2016
 - But low response rate.....



SURVEY (CONT.)


- Decision to promote survey to total Tasmania
- Promotion
 - Targeted marketing via Facebook
 - Facebook groups located in Tasmania tagged and sent survey information
 - Contacted community clubs located in Tasmania (<http://www.clubsofaustralia.com.au/about.html>)
 - Survey link on TFS FB page and website




RESPONSES


- N=427 usable responses
- Representative of population distribution of Tasmania

Legend

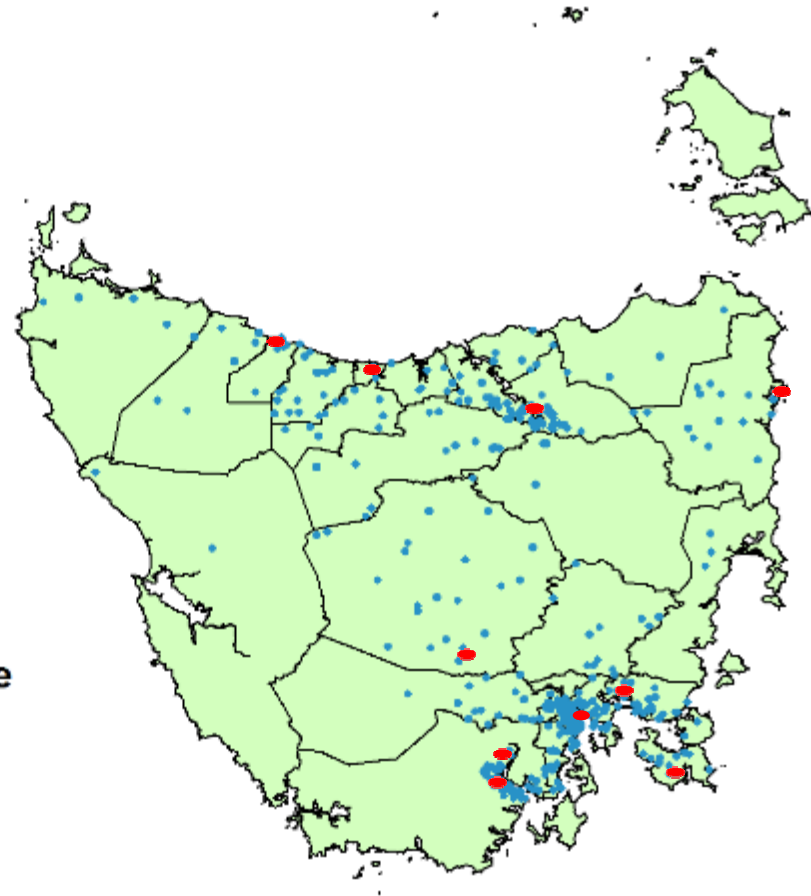
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RespondentsbyPostcode

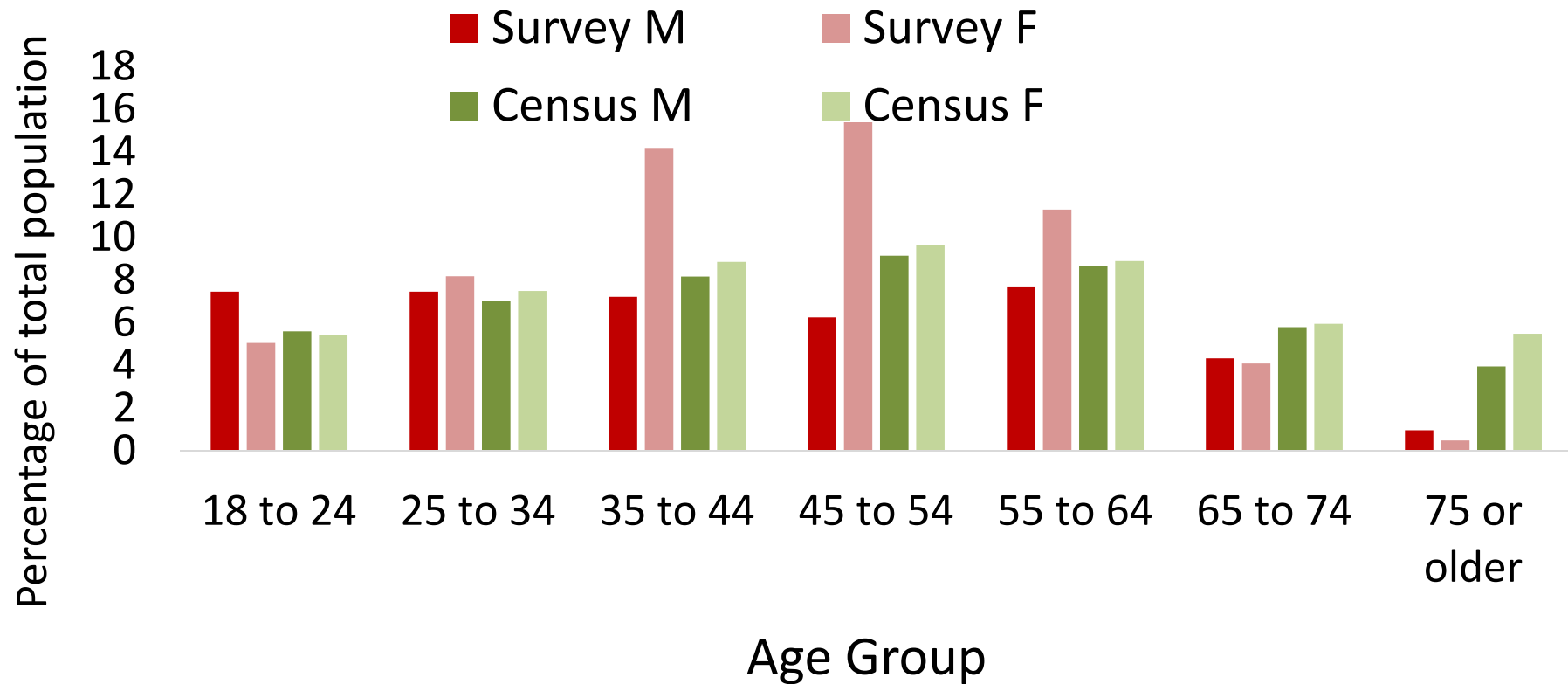
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 Urban Centre



Age Sex Distribution of Survey (Raw Data) vs 2011 Census



WEIGHTING

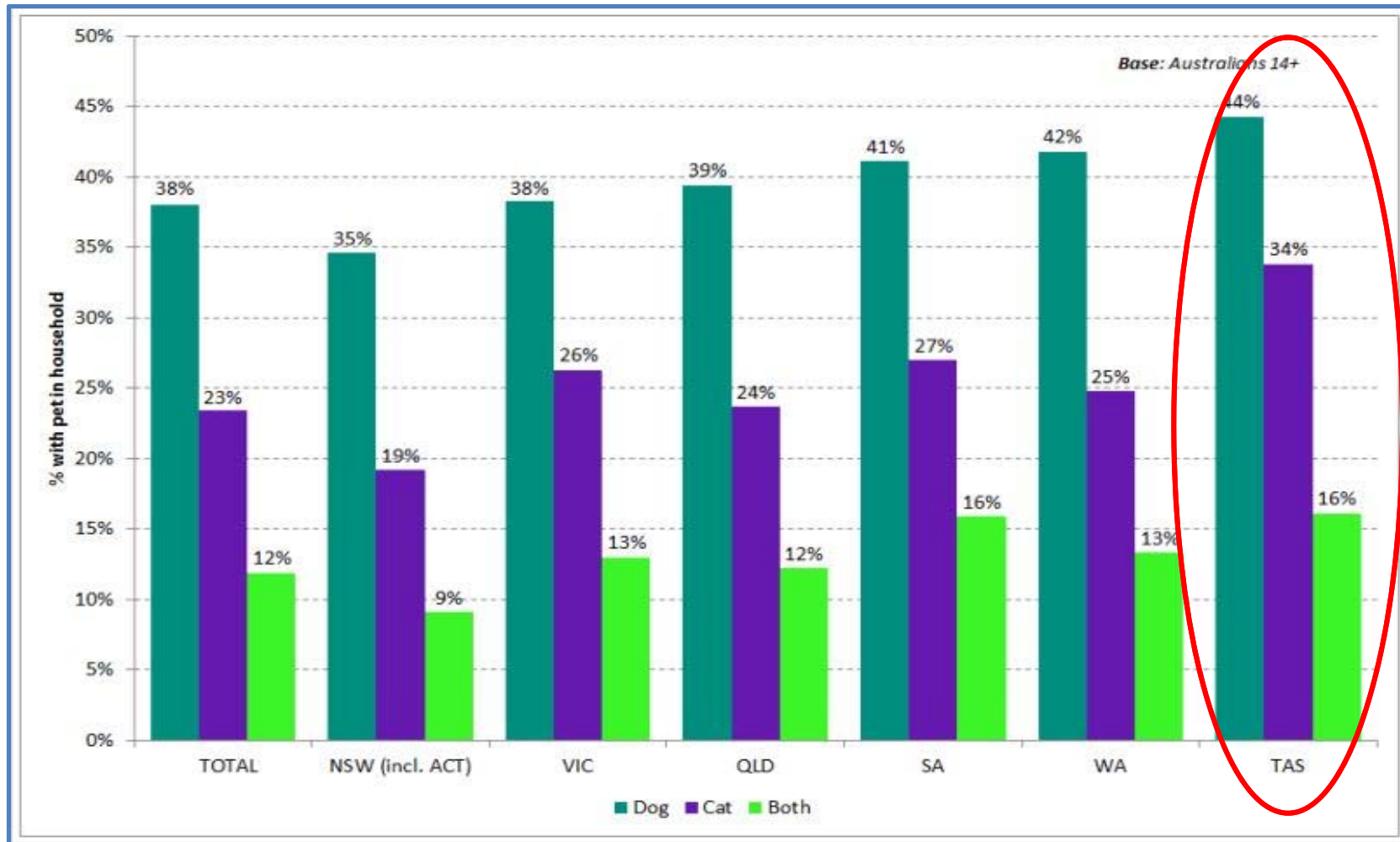
- Standard procedure in survey based research
- Adjusts profile of survey respondents to match the population
- 2011 Census data on age (5 year groups) and sex
- Could include other additional relevant variables (eg household type, marital status, employment status, income)
 - Results in unwieldy contingency tables, eg 30*20
- Raking also used where appropriate



PROFILE OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS (WEIGHTED)

Percentage	Pet Owners	Control Group (Non-Pet Owners)
Male	47	49
Aged 18-34	29	15
Aged 65+	10	52
Employed(FT, PT, SE or casual)	68	34
Retired	13	54
Hhs (single & couple) without dependents	47	76
Hhs (sole parent & couples) with dep children	32	11
Mixed adults	11	11
Family members with vulnerable member(s)	38	19
N	318	109

ROY MORGAN RESEARCH



Source: <http://www.roymorgan.com/findings/6272-pet-ownership-in-australia-201506032349>
2014, n=15,944, ages 14+

PET OWNERSHIP RATE

- The survey was not targeted toward pet owners
- Aim to allow comparisons of pet owners with non-pet owners (reveal key differences)
- But some bias toward pet owners nevertheless



Comparison with Reported Pet Ownership Rates

Rate by species	Animal Medicines Australia (2016) Total Australia, n=2,022)	Animal Medicines Australia (2016) Tasmania n=44	Roy Morgan (2014) Total Australia n=15,944	Roy Morgan (2014) Tasmania (n not stated)	MAiD Tasmania (n=427)
All species	62	66	~	~	75
Dogs	39	43	38	44	46
Cats	29	30	23	34	31
Fish	12	14	~	~	10
Birds (incl. chickens)	12	7	~	~	23
Small mammals	3	5	~	~	6
Reptiles	3	0	~	~	1
Other pets (incl horses)	3	5	~	~	18
Other pets	~	~	~	~	6
Horses	~	~	~	~	12

PET OWNERS VS NON-PET OWNERS IN BUSHFIRES

56% of **pet owners** have been affected by a bushfire in the past,

compared with

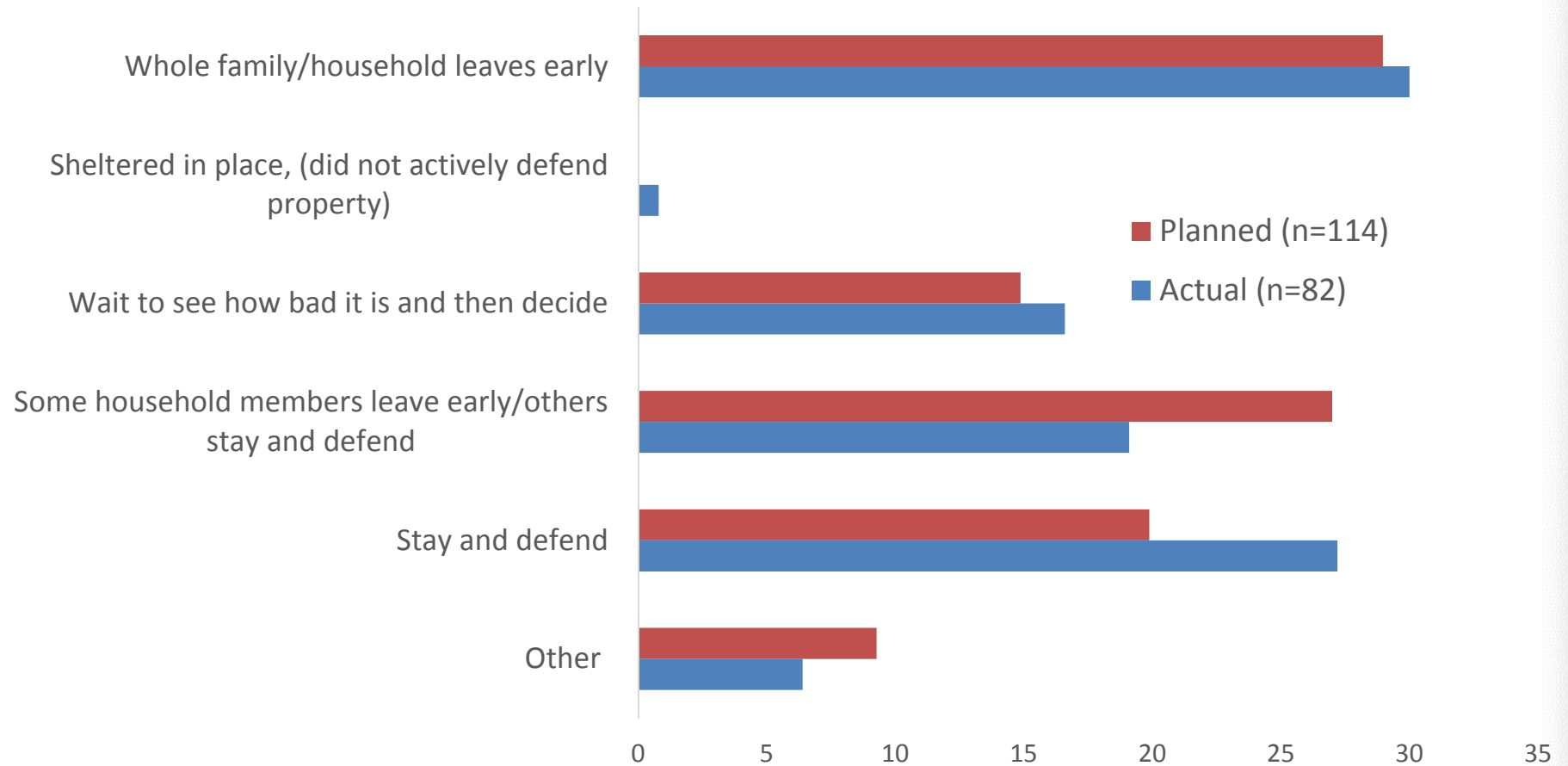
31% of non-pet owners



Survival plan in previous bushfire?

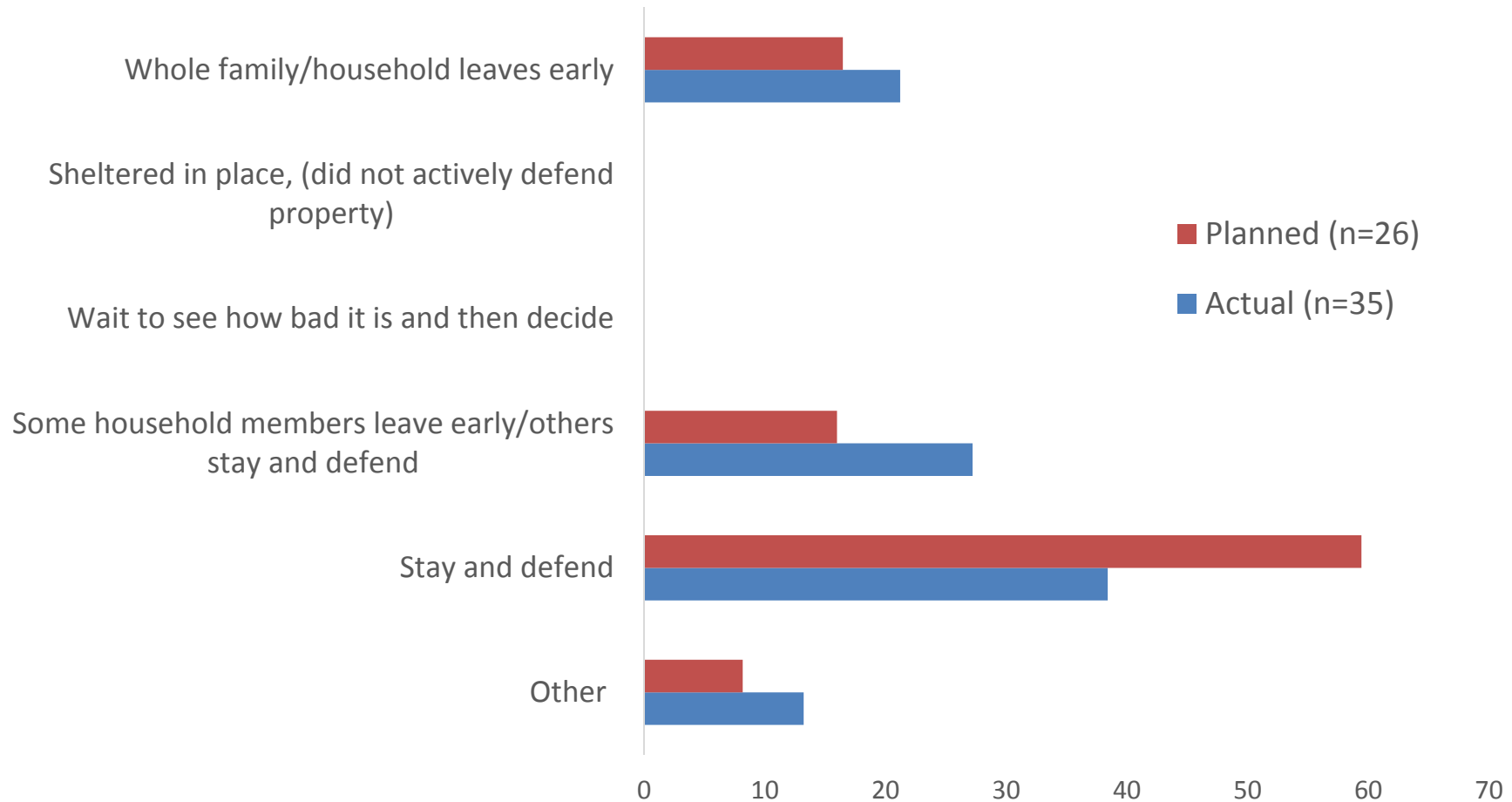
Plan?	% Pet owners	% Non-pet owners
Yes - written plan	10	39
Yes - but not written down	61	31
No plan	19	22
Other/NA	11	8
N	156	44

PLANNED AND ACTUAL ACTIONS OF PET OWNERS IN PREVIOUS BUSHFIRES

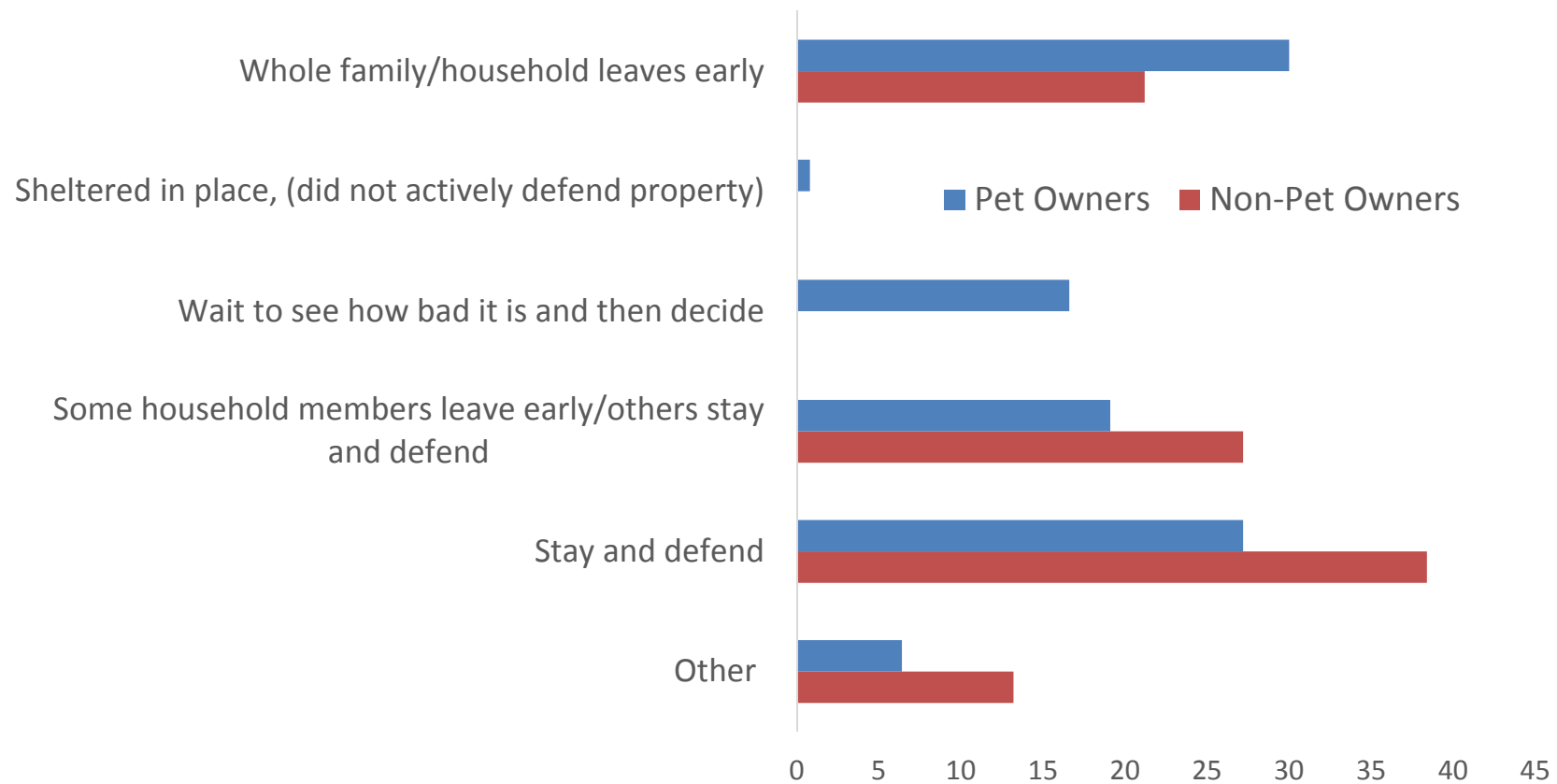


PLANNED AND ACTUAL ACTIONS OF NON-PET OWNERS IN PREVIOUS BUSHFIRES

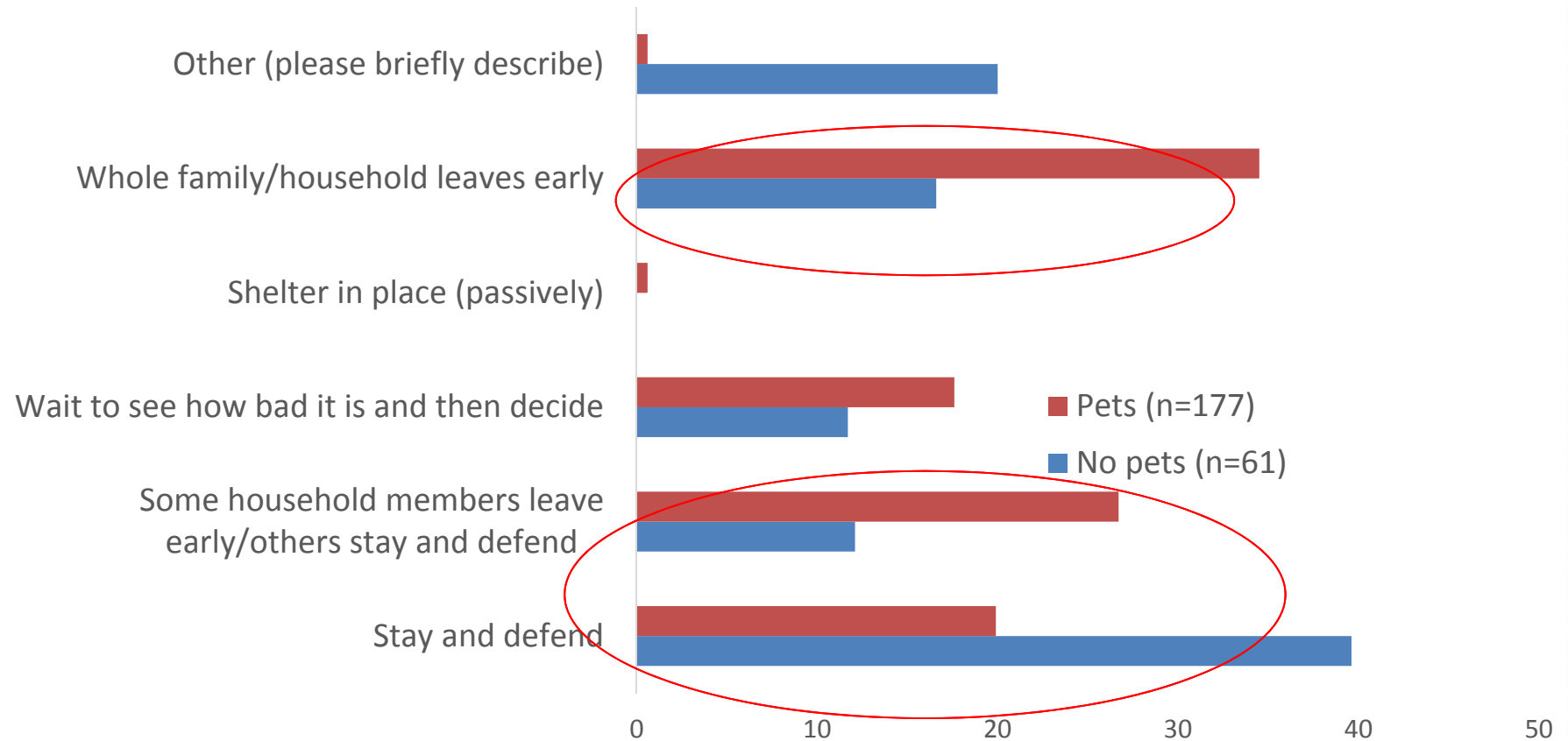
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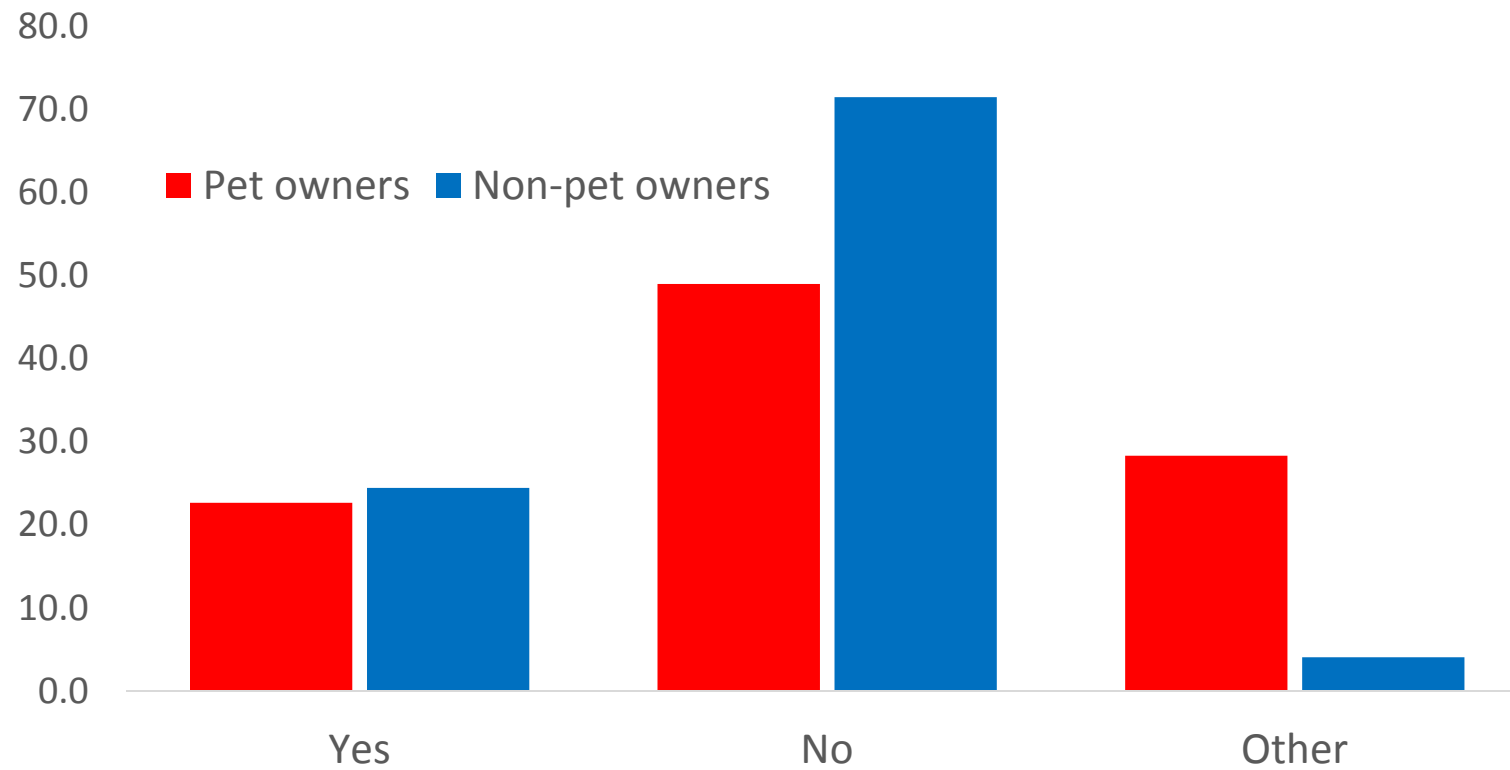
ACTUAL RESPONSES OF PET OWNERS AND NON-PET OWNERS



PLANNED FUTURE RESPONSES OF PET OWNERS AND NON-PET OWNERS



PRACTISED THE PLAN? PET OWNERS VS NON-PET OWNERS



ANALYSIS IN PROGRESS


- Different actions by different groups of pet owners
 - dog owners vs cat owners vs horse owners vs small animal owners vs bird owners etc
 - Particular attention to horse owners given transport needs
 - Role of emotional attachment to pets in planning decisions



BLUE ARC

BLUE MOUNTAINS - ANIMAL READY COMMUNITY

Your voice, their lives.



**Animals in Emergencies Survey
Blue Mountains & surrounding areas**



DUAL AIMS

Blue ARC

To support community resilience in emergency events through better awareness, preparedness, planning and response for companion animals, livestock, and native wildlife.

MAiD

- To support and observe formation and progression of a community-led AEM group
- Distil generic advice, guidance, applicable to other groups
- Identify and start developing outputs and resources that could be taken and modified for use elsewhere

ACTIVITIES (DATA IN)

- Group meetings
 - Establishing the group, what it is and isn't, motivations and expectations of members
 - Brainstorming activities
 - Formal aims, description
- Local networking
- Interviews
- Community survey
- Audit of veterinary practices
- Audit of animal boarding establishments
- Workshops – expert consensus community training



ANIMALS IN EMERGENCIES SURVEY

AIMS

- 1) To assess local community emergency preparedness for their animals,
- 2) To learn about experiences and identify issues that have occurred in previous emergencies regarding animals, and
- 3) To identify local needs and gaps when it comes to preparing and planning for animals in local emergencies.

(plus unstated aims...)

Your voice, their lives.

**Animals in Emergencies Survey
Blue Mountains & surrounding areas**

Community emergency preparedness & planning for animals.
Issues from previous emergencies. Local needs and gaps.
Help give animals a voice by filling in the survey.

Complete the survey online at
www.surveymonkey.com/r/animals-in-emergencies-survey

Request a printed copy from
The Turning Page Bookshop, Springwood Ph: 02 4751 5171 or
Blue ARC: www.facebook.com/BlueMountainsARC/ Blue_ARC@yahoo.com

For all other enquiries contact:
Mel Taylor, Bushfire & Natural Hazards CRC — mel.taylor@mq.edu.au
Blue ARC is auspiced by Springwood Neighbourhood Centre Co-operative Ltd.

64700 An Place Blue ARC 06 1 0011 028 01

GREAT SUPPORT

Call to think about animals as well **Preparing for disasters**



TAKE PART IN SURVEY: Buena Vista Rd's Richard Astle and Fran Elston with dogs Makala and Milo, with Blue ARC's Jenny Bigelow and Dr Mal Taylor.

BY **ELSA CUNNINGHAM**

DO YOU know how best to look after a treasured family pet during a disaster or where to go for help?

These are just some of the questions researchers will ask in a survey aimed at better preparing the community for natural disasters in the wake of the 2013 fires.

The survey is a project of Macquarie University researchers, in conjunction with community group Blue ARC - responsible for the book *At the Smoke Clears*, a compilation of photos taken after the bushfires, and the revitalisation of Timba Parade Park in Wilmacree.

Dr Mal Taylor is leading the research project *Managing Animals in Disasters*, which is funded by the Bushfire and Natural Hazards Co-operative Research Centre.

She says animals can be affected by traumatic events for some time, just like people.

"After floods, research has shown in heavy rain animals



ANIMALS REMEMBERED: Dr Chris Blair by the memorial in Wilmacree dedicated to the animals lost in the fires of 2013.

get agitated," Dr Taylor said. "And farmers who lose their livestock, it has a huge emotional impact."

Blue ARC member Jenny Bigelow said they hoped to find out what resources were required, systems that must be in place and identify any gaps in preparing for emergencies. They also hoped to learn from previous experiences like the 2013 bushfires.

Fran Dixon lives in Buena Vista Rd, Wilmacree - one of the worst hit streets during

the 2013 fires. She recalls how her son Josh, who has Down syndrome, was home with a fever at the time, and as they were leaving, their dog Milo was so scared he jumped out of the car's arms. They managed to get Milo back and left the street.

"You notice the smell of the smoke," Ms Dixon said. "Josh doesn't say much but if we have a thick fog he gets panicky."

It's hoped even talking

about how to better prepare for disasters will get people thinking about how prepared they and their pets are.

"It can be used as a motivator," Dr Taylor said. "Thinking about what the impact is for them, they may think 'I can deal with it, but what about my dog, how will she cope?'"

Dr Chris Blair at Wilmacree Governor's Vista, then called Wilmacree Petfriends Veterinary Hospital, devoted countless hours at the practice after the 2013 fires tending to 350 injured animals free of charge, at a cost of more than \$100,000.

Outside the practice there is a memorial dedicated to all the animals who lost their lives during the fires.

Dr Blair would like to see regular backbarring occur, so native animals have the chance to flee.

Copies of the survey are at Springwood and Wilmacree neighbourhood centres, The Turning Page and online at: www.surveymonkey.com/animals-in-emergencies-survey.



SURVEY LATEST (04/04/17)

- 258 responses
- 123 experienced an emergency event (80% - 2013 bushfires)
- 65 evacuated with animals

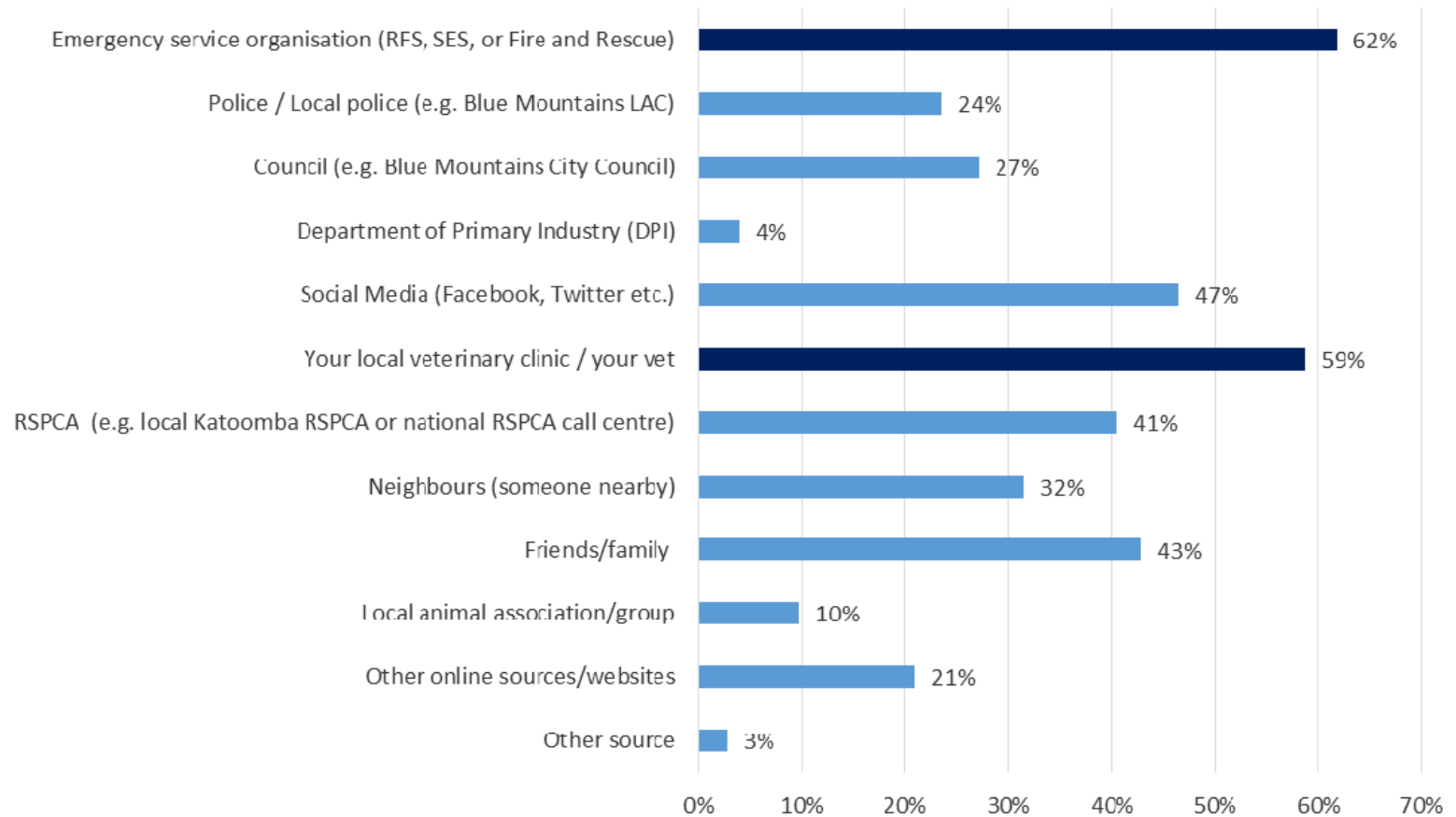
- 26% don't have a clear plan of where they'd take their animals if they evacuated
- 14% would need to make two or more trips to get all people and animal out in an emergency
- 31% don't have a family member or friend who could evacuate animals for them if unable to get home
- 22% don't have ID tags on animals
- In 22% of households all adults are away for most of the day (Mon-Fri)

COMMUTING

I was one of the long distance commuters sent home early on the day of the October 2013 fires. We looked in horror at the amount of smoke outside the train windows and felt powerless as we shuffled along. There was one young woman on the phone desperately trying find someone to get her horses in Winmalee to safety. It was heart wrenching to listen to as were all the other calls. The pets of long distance commuters are particularly vulnerable in this situation and it would be good to offer some sort of support for them.

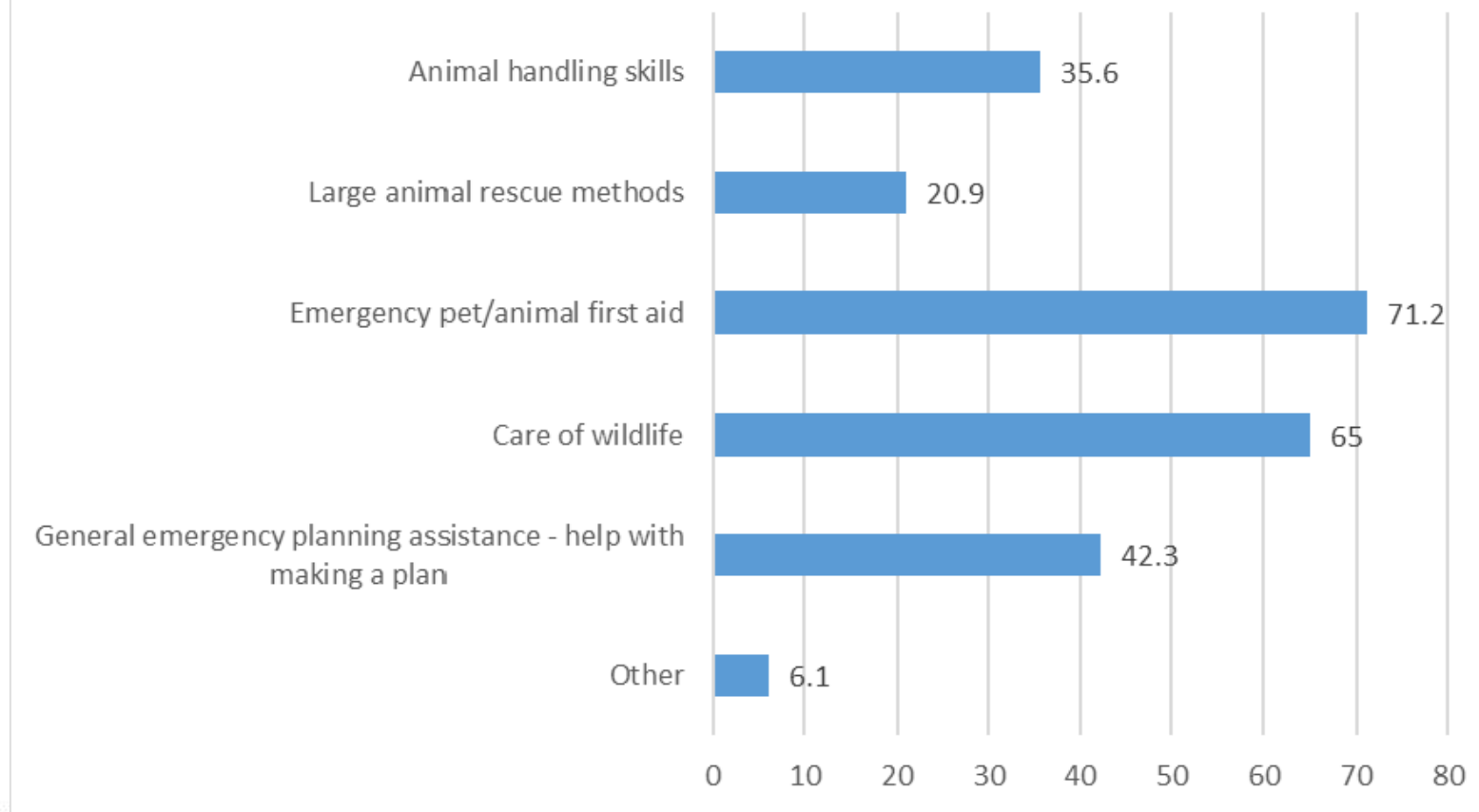
WHY THIS IS AN ISSUE FOR ESOs

If you needed information or advice about what to do with your animals in an emergency situation, where would you go? (n=254)



COMMUNITY APPETITE FOR TRAINING

Would you be interested in any of the following training, if it was organised and held locally, and at minimal cost?



VETERINARIANS IN EMERGENCIES

- Audit of local capacity
- Resources for community
- Experience in 2013 bushfires
- Practice emergency preparedness
- Needs – equipment, training
- Community training
- Ideas to support community



ACTIVITIES (OUTPUT PACKAGE)

1) Ideas for community activities

- Awareness raising, fund raising, engagement

2) Provision of question bank and templates

- Survey questions, interviews, guidance for data collection

3) Development of templates for community-relevant materials

- Factsheets, animal-specific preparedness and information – developed with ESOs, local animal groups, local veterinarians

4) Community-based training

- Content/syllabus development for animal first aid, wildlife care, animal handling, emergency preparedness 101
- Simple YouTube videos for basic skills – e.g. animal handling

5) Veterinary-focussed training

- Seminars – animal emergency management
- Wildlife care for veterinary nurses

WHAT IS MAiD LEARNING?

- 1) Wealth of community skills, resources, and support available in this area
- 2) People care a great deal about wildlife
- 3) Issues of group dynamics – fragility in early stages and in transitioning
- 4) Community-led projects run to their own time

* * *

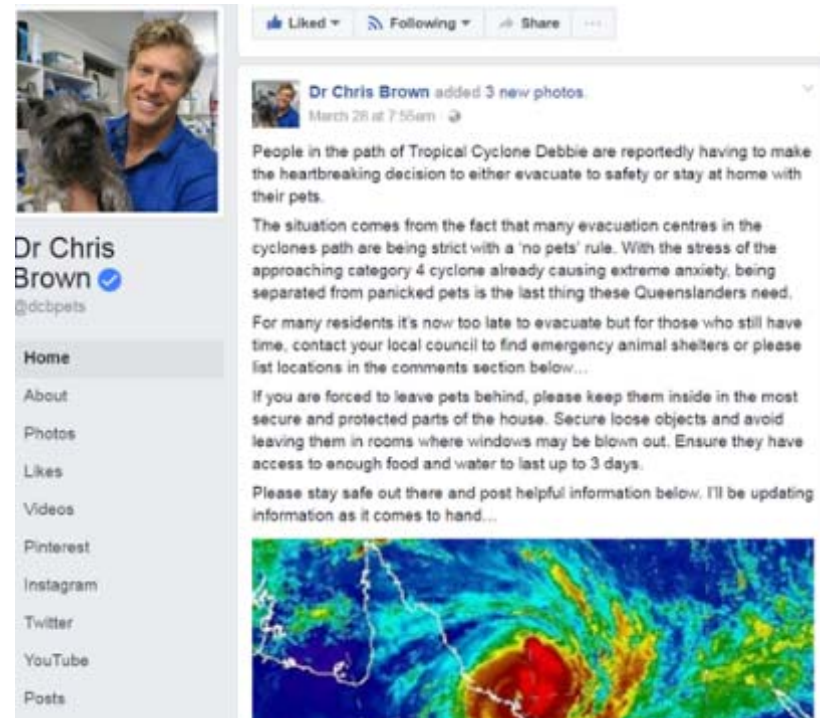
REFLECTIONS ON MAiD AND AEM IN AUSTRALIA

1) Project Achievements

- - obvious outputs and invisible contributions

2) Pockets of hope

3) Timelines for AEM



REFLECTION

Update 2 April @4:30pm

Rockhampton Evacuation Centre opens for flood affected residents

The Evacuation Centre is now open in the Robert Schwartz Pavilion at the Rockhampton Showgrounds and is open only to people who reside in flood affected areas.

Today over 60 emergency personnel doorknocked more than 1,800 homes in areas that will have some form of inundation, advising residents to self-evacuate.

Council is encouraging residents to initially consider other options such as staying with family and friends that live in an area safe from flood waters.

If you are preparing to stay at the Evacuation Centre, the following rules are in place:

- Bring identification with your address
- Bring your own bedding with you
- Not Pets allowed under any circumstance
- No alcohol, smoking or illegal drugs within the Centre
- Please bring your medications and prescriptions

Police are urging evacuees to ensure their homes and belongings are locked and secure. Queensland Water Police will be conducting 24 hour patrols in all flood affected areas.

If you require assistance please contact the LDCC on 1300 652 659, now open 24 hours a day

One night in an evacuation centre

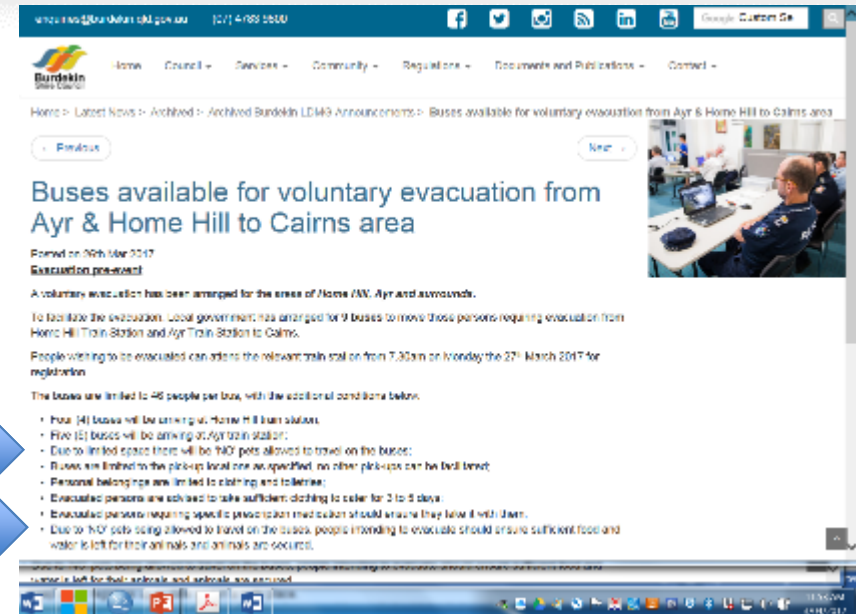
Anxious people, frightened dogs and rising floodwaters: a Red Cross volunteer shares her sleepless night in Lismore.

MONDAY APRIL 3, 2017

Share this story

People arrived and left at all hours. Many brought their dogs, but hygiene regulations meant that animals couldn't stay in the building. Cages had been requested but couldn't be delivered in time.

"One guy ended up sleeping in his car with five dogs. I guess he was quite warm, actually!" Kerrie laughs.



Is it safe to leave?

Queensland Police Deputy Commissioner Steve Golichevski says people in the **Bowen** and **Whitsunday** areas, including **Airlie Beach**, should remain inside.

Emergency services in those areas cannot respond to calls for help.

He said people in Mackay should be off the roads. "We do have some capacity to respond at the moment if needed but that's not going to last for very long."

Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk urged residents to stay indoors. "The best place to be is in your safe place in your home. Stay there. Stay with your family close by," she said.

She said strong winds could last "well into this afternoon and to the evening".

Where are the evacuation centres?

Evacuation centres have been established at **Ayr Showgrounds**, **Bowen State High School** and **Proserpine State High School**, but authorities have said these are only available for people who have no other options.

No pets are allowed, and during this time the shelters will be "locked down" as the cyclone passes.

Whitsunday Regional Council also warned evacuees may need to stay in the shelter for up to 18 hours and they will be "cramped, noisy, smelly, boring and you and your family will have little or no privacy".

In Townsville, **Heathley Secondary College** is acting as a cyclone shelter.

Other places of refuge are open at **Townsville City Council** (143 Walker Street) the **Suncorp Building** (61-73 Sturt Street) and at **North Shore** (Inis Lane, Burdell).



Wind speeds visualized



Dangers of storm surge



Cyclone category system



Australia's worst cyclones



FINAL MESSAGE ABOUT MESSAGING



No Lives Lost!