

# AVERT BULLETIN

Spring 2018

Welcome to the Spring issue of the Bulletin.

With the lack of rainfall in many parts of the country this year there are large areas still suffering from the ongoing drought putting huge stress and strain on these country areas, local communities and farmers. The forecasts for the forthcoming summer months are showing little relief in many areas and it is now time to be preparing for the usual onslaught of summer bushfires and cyclones.

## **The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources have requested the following information be conveyed to all AVERT vets and vet nurses:**

African swine fever is an exotic animal disease that is spreading in Asia and Europe, with recent cases reported in China and Belgium. The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources has prepared an Emergency Animal Disease bulletin for veterinarians to familiarise themselves with the clinical signs of disease, reporting requirements and swill feeding prohibitions. See: <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/pests-diseases-weeds/animal/ead-bulletin/ead-bulletin-no-120>

## **Prevention and Preparedness in Queensland:**

**By: Greg Eustace - State Coordinator Emergency Management, RSPCA Queensland**

Now is the time for prevention and preparedness activities as we approach a season of heatwaves, bushfires, severe thunderstorms, cyclones and floods which affect both animals and people.

The Bureau of Meteorology Severe Weather Season Outlook 2018 – 19 <sup>1</sup> indicates over the next few months;

- increased risk of heatwaves,
- elevated bushfire potential,
- below average tropical cyclone season likely,
- widespread flooding less likely
- normal risk of severe thunderstorms

So therefore, it is important that activities such as a business continuity and contingency planning are addressed in the coming weeks. Extreme weather conditions are unpredictable

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and plans should be developed to assist with managing a gap in capability to ensure services are maintained.

During 2018, the Queensland Government launched *Resilient Queensland 2018-21* <sup>2</sup> which is an engagement and implementation plan to ensure outcomes are delivered against the objectives of the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience. The primary focus of Resilient Queensland is to coordinate a multi-partner approach to disaster resilience at the community level. One of the objectives of the strategy is to strengthen disaster risk management and understand what people value.



The strategy recognises that people place different values on different things. For some, *pets are very much a part of their family*. For others, possessions mean the world. Understanding what people value helps

strengthen our system so that we can coordinate and concentrate our efforts where they are needed most.



Therefore, it is important to advocate preparedness strategies such as the development of Action Plans and Pet Emergency Plans as part of the household plan as well as the development of strategies for the safe movement and transport of animals to safer places should the need arise.

*Be Prepared, Act Early, Be Considerate and Act Safe* are key messages for animal owners who consider pets are very much a part of their family. <sup>3</sup>

For further information:

<http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/cyclones/australia/>  
[www.qldreconstruction.org.au/ResilientQueensland](http://www.qldreconstruction.org.au/ResilientQueensland)  
[www.rspcaqld.org.au/what-we-do/disasters-and-alerts](http://www.rspcaqld.org.au/what-we-do/disasters-and-alerts)

## ACT Equestrian Association - Will Your Horse Stay or Go?

<http://www.actea.asn.au/will-your-horse-stay-or-go/>

## **TRAINING**

### **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER RESOURCES**

The following link to the WHO incident management training has been submitted by the Department

<https://openwho.org/courses/incident-management-syste>

### **ANIMAL HEALTH AUSTRALIA ONLINE TRAINING**

The EAD Foundation course gives learners an introduction to emergency animal disease preparedness and response arrangements in Australia, including:

1. The emergency animal disease response agreement (EADRA)
2. AUSVETPLAN
3. Working in an emergency animal disease response.

To register and enrol in the EAD Foundation course, go to <http://aha.canopihr.com.au>

### **QUEENSLAND DAF FMD ONLINE TRAINING**

Queensland DAF have a free online FMD awareness course for the livestock industry and wider community which can also be accessed via the DAF website [FMD awareness training](#).

### **BIOSECURITY QUEENSLAND ONLINE FMD TRAINING COURSE SPECIFICALLY FOR VETS**

#### **Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) training for veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals**

This free online course has been created by the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) to provide awareness around clinical signs, differential diagnoses, sample collection, sample submission and diagnosis of FMD. It also has a focus on notification requirements and biosecurity risk management, including personal decontamination, and

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provides information about the roles of animal health professionals in the event that, an FMD incident were to occur in Australia. While the legislative and notification aspects of the course have a Queensland focus, most of the information is also applicable Australia-wide.

A range of online videos are available to support the course in the areas of sample submission, sample packaging and personal entry/exit procedures for infected or potentially infected premises. Downloadable content for many of the modules is available throughout the course. The course consists of 11 modules which can be completed based on individual interests or learning needs.

Module 1.	Introduction (5 min)
Module 2.	Susceptible species and disease transmission (10 min)
Module 3.	FMD investigation and clinical presentation (25 min)
Module 4	FMD case definition (10 min)
Module 5	Differential diagnosis (15 min)
Module 6	Notification requirements (10 min)
Module 7	Interim measures following notification to Biosecurity Queensland (15 min)
Module 8	Sample collection and laboratory diagnosis of FMD (25 min)
Module 9	Sample management (30 min)
Module 10	On farm biosecurity (30 min)
Module 11	Role of animal health professionals in an FMD incident response (10 min)

Continuing professional development (CPD) points can be accumulated by completing relevant modules or the whole course. Completion of the course gives Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) members 3 VetEd points.

The course can be accessed via the DAF website [FMD training for veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals](#).

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## WEATHER & WARNINGS ALERTS

### NATIONAL

Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology – Weather & Warnings

<http://www.bom.gov.au/australia/?ref=hdr>

### NEW SOUTH WALES

Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology - Weather & Warnings Summary

<http://www.bom.gov.au/nsw/index.shtml?ref=hdr>

NSW Rural Fire Services

<http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information>

State Emergency Services New South Wales

<http://www.ses.nsw.gov.au/>

### QUEENSLAND

Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology - Weather & Warnings

<http://www.bom.gov.au/qld/?ref=hdr>

Fire and Emergency Services

<https://www.qfes.qld.gov.au/Pages/d>

State Emergency Services Queensland

<http://www.emergency.qld.gov.au/ses/>



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## VICTORIA

Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology – Weather & Warnings

<http://www.bom.gov.au/vic/index.shtml?ref=hdr>

Vic Emergency

<http://emergency.vic.gov.au/respond/>

Country Fire Authority Victoria

<http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/>

State Emergency Services Victoria

<http://www.ses.vic.gov.au/>

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology – Weather & Warnings

<http://www.bom.gov.au/wa/?ref=hdr>

Department of Fire & Emergency Services

<https://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/alerts/Pages/default.aspx>

State Emergency Services Western Australia

<http://www.ses-wa.asn.au/>

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology – Weather & Warnings

<http://www.bom.gov.au/sa/index.shtml?ref=hdr>

Country Fires Service

[http://cfs.sa.gov.au/site/warnings\\_and\\_incidents.jsp](http://cfs.sa.gov.au/site/warnings_and_incidents.jsp)

State Emergency Services South Australia

<http://www.ses.sa.gov.au/site/home.jsp>

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## TASMANIA

Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology – Weather & Warnings

<http://www.bom.gov.au/tas/index.shtml?ref=hdr>

Tasmania Fire Service

<https://www.fire.tas.gov.au/>

State Emergency Services Tasmania

<http://www.ses.tas.gov.au/>

## AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology – Weather & Warnings

<http://www.bom.gov.au/act/?ref=hdr>

ACT Emergency Services Agency

<http://esa.act.gov.au/actfr/>

State Emergency Services ACT

<http://esa.act.gov.au/actses/>

*Visit the VBB website at <http://www.vetsbeyondborders.org/>*

**Vets and vet nurses interested in the AVERT Program can register on the website. All other enquiries can be sent to [avert@vetsbeyondborders.org](mailto:avert@vetsbeyondborders.org)**