

Dear Teresa and colleagues of the Veterinary Association of Rome,

We are heartened by your kind offer as the veterinary profession here comes to terms with the enormity of the challenges arising from the bushfires.

The AVBC is the standard setting agency for veterinarians in Australia and New Zealand and our role is to ensure that all veterinarians practising in Australia and NZ have qualifications suitable for practice here. Our members are the registration boards and the NZ and Australian Veterinary Associations.

Vets Beyond Borders (VBB) have an Australian Veterinary Emergency Response Team (AVERT) volunteer database. VBB is in communication with the state departments of agriculture, state RSPCAs and state emergency coordinators in most states and territories across Australia during this current bushfire crisis, and are on stand-by to offer volunteer lists. Veterinarians who wish to volunteer with the AVERT program can register online at: [Vets Beyond Borders](#). Incredibly, more than a thousand veterinarians have already entered their details indicating they are ready and willing to help. Unfortunately, because of the nature of the catastrophe very few have been called up.

The organisation that directly supports practising veterinarians is the Australian Veterinary Association (AVA). The AVA also has staff dedicated to responding to the bushfire crisis. There are 250 veterinary practices directly affected by the fires and if they are still able to operate, they are being supported in their work to provide free services to the fire impacted local community and wildlife through the AVA Benevolent fund.

I commend to you [the AVA page](https://www.ava.com.au/donate/) (https://www.ava.com.au/donate/) which lists ways the Veterinary Association of Rome can make a financial contribution.

As you are the President of your organisation I will send your email to the president of the AVA and the Chair of AVBC. They will be greatly encouraged by your support and that of the Italian veterinary profession.

With my best regards,

Julie Strous



Dr Julie Strous
Executive Director
Australasian Veterinary Boards Council Inc. (AVBC)
Level 8, 470 Collins Street
Melbourne 3000 Australia
Ph: +61 3 9620 7844 Fax: +61 3 9620 7828
Website: www.avbc.asn.au

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