

BUSHFIRE EMERGENCY INFORMATION FOR VOLUNTEER & LOCUM VETERINARIANS

At present, only police and emergency services are allowed into many of the affected fire grounds. In the meantime, vets can add their names to volunteer databases for deployment when the authorities deem this to be safe. The situation is slightly different in each state.

Veterinary Registration

National Recognition of Veterinary Registration (NRVR) allows veterinarians **already** registered in Australia to practice immediately in fire affected areas in Queensland, New South Wales, ACT and Victoria. For other states and territories, please contact the veterinary boards directly to check requirements.

New Zealand registered veterinarians may apply to register in all Australian jurisdictions via TTMRA.

For all other veterinarians please consult the document [Qualifications recognised by ABVC](#) to ascertain eligibility to apply for registration as a veterinarian in Australia.

NSW

Veterinarians based overseas who are eligible for full or specialist registration in NSW must apply for registration in NSW in order to provide veterinary services in NSW. The Board will waive the registration fee for any veterinarians wishing to provide veterinary services for up to one month in NSW as a volunteer. The registration application fee (\$140) still applies (unless this is a restoration to the Register) and the veterinarian must volunteer their services through the AVERT program to facilitate coordination of this assistance.

VIC

If you wish to register with Vetboard Victoria so you can provide veterinary services during the bushfire emergency, the processing of your registration application can be fast tracked. If you are being paid to provide veterinary services in the emergency, the Board will waive fast track registration fees. If you will not be paid for your services, the Board may consider waiving some registration charges.

Apply for urgent registration [here](#).

Veterinary Nurses

Veterinary nursing volunteers are needed in a range of wildlife rescue organisations.

Insurance

For veterinarians volunteering and/or providing local assistance during bushfires Guild will provide cover for any veterinarians volunteering and/or engaged by a local authority:

- Individual Policy (non-proprietor):
 - Professional indemnity & public/products liability – cover provided under the Guild policy for volunteer vets
- Business Insurance Policy (Proprietor):
 - Professional indemnity & public/products liability – Guild will provide cover for vets volunteering for an emergency event. For indemnity to be granted the veterinarian (who is an employee and is covered under their employer's business insurance policy) must advise their employer and obtain consent to undertake voluntary work. This may be in the form of a note and/or a call to their employer regarding their voluntary work.
- All Guild-insured veterinarians are advised to speak to their account manager or call Guild directly on 1800 810 213 to have this noted.



Key Agencies

National

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. Vets who wish to volunteer with the AVERT program can register online at: <https://www.vetsbeyondborders.org/programs/avert/>

Victoria

Agriculture Victoria has a formal plan for paid veterinary assistance in these emergencies. AVA is currently assisting with activation of the response. You can register for the Victorian Bushfire Volunteer scheme here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NDBDCGR>

- Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR) (call Agriculture Victoria: 136 186)
 - Victorian Emergency Animal Welfare Plan
 - Wildlife and Fire Response Flyer
- [Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning \(DELWP\)](#) 136186
- AVA: Email Susan Chandler susan.chandler@ava.com.au or 0418 990338
- RSPCA
- Municipal Association of Victoria
- Victorian Farmers Federation
- Veterinary Practitioners Registration Board Victoria 03 96207844

New South Wales

The response is coordinated by DPI which works with LLS to support NSW Rural Fire Service. AVERT have an arrangement with the AAS and are on stand-by. If you wish to volunteer in NSW AVA recommend you sign up at the AVERT website, and wait to be contacted.

- Vets Beyond Borders : Australian Veterinary Emergency Response Team (AVERT)
 - [Register with AVERT](#) or call +61 (0) 2 8003 3691

Queensland

- RSPCA – phone 1300 852 188 or 1300 ANIMAL (1300 264 625)
- Department of Agriculture and Fisheries – phone 13 25 23
- Department of Environment and Science – phone 1300 130 372 (wildlife)

South Australia

South Australian Veterinary Emergency Management (SAVEM) Inc is a Tier 2 Response and Recovery agency with a formal role in the State Emergency Management Plan (SEMP). SAVEM is a Participating Agency under Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA), as is the AVA SA Division, and groups such as the RSPCA, the AWL and DEW. Veterinarians and nurses wishing to join a SAVEM Activation must first complete mandatory training which is explained and outlined on the [SAVEM website](#)

- [South Australian Veterinary Emergency Management](#) (SAVEM) 0477 055 233

All Other States

All other states: vets wishing to volunteer in all other states, please sign up at the AVERT website. AVERT will issue regular updates and contact you when required

Wildlife Rescue Organisations

- NSW: [WIRES](#)
- Victoria: [DELWP](#) tool or call 136186 for details of wildlife carers
- [RSPCA national contacts](#)

PRIMARY CONTACT AGENCIES

	QLD	NSW	ACT	VIC	SA
Volunteer	AVERT	AVERT	AVERT	Via AVA Vic	SAVEM
Coordination of animal welfare agencies – non wildlife		DPI Agriculture and Animal Services (AAS)		DJPR – Agriculture Victoria	
Coordination of wildlife agencies, wildlife welfare assessment and volunteers	Department of Environment and Science			DELWP	
Care of animals at relief centres (where capacity exists)	Local government	DPI Animal Safe Centres		Local government	
Stray wandering or lost animals	Local government			Local government	
Disposal /burial of carcasses	Local government			Local government	
State and Territory registration of veterinarians	Veterinary Surgeons Board of Queensland only if not already registered in Australia	Veterinary Practitioners Board of New South Wales only if not already registered in Australia	Veterinary Practitioners Board of ACT only if not already registered in Australia	The Veterinary Practitioners Registration Board of Victoria only if not already registered in Australia	Veterinary Surgeons Board of South Australia
Prescribing rules				Health.vic	
Other agencies				RSPCA, VFF, AVA	
Clients requiring livestock assessment/ treatment in accessible areas				Please direct them to call 1800 226 226	
Clients requiring fodder	QLD government	Agricultural and Animal Services Hotline on 1800 814 647.		Please direct them to call 1300 882 833, or email fodder@vff.org.au	

Other Contacts

[Veterinary Board of Tasmania](#)
[Veterinary Board of Western Australia](#)
[Veterinary Board of Northern Territory](#)

Information sourced from the Australian Veterinary Association. For further information for volunteers, access the AVA's online resources on [Treating Injured Animals](#)