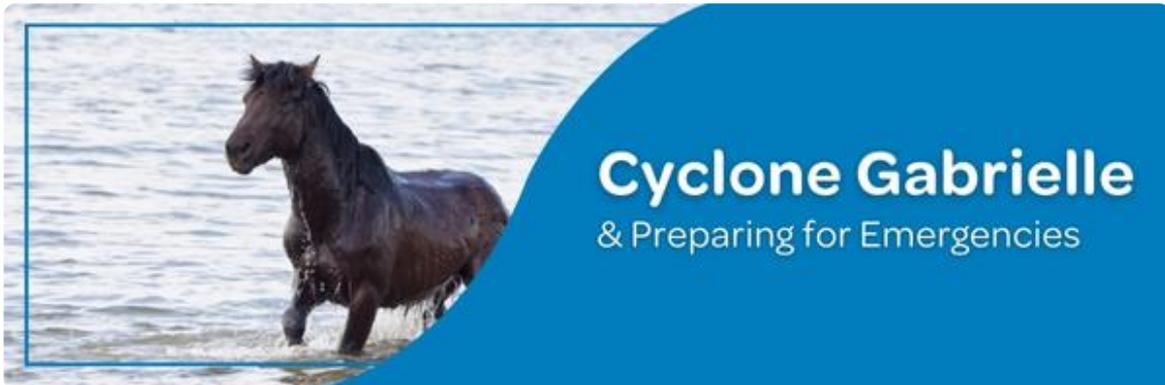




In this issue:

1. Preparing for emergencies
2. The role of Companion Animals NZ in emergencies
3. Shelter Register Aotearoa update
4. ABTA update
5. Advocacy work
6. Shaping the future for companion animals



Our thoughts go out to all those dealing with the aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle, in particular to those who have lost animals in the devastation. It is a reminder of what Mother Nature can throw at us, and although we can't control the outcome of these disasters, we can be proactive in preparing for them.

To Help Protect Your Pets In An Emergency



Have enough food and water stored at home to last your animals at least 5 days.

Have your animal microchipped and registered with New Zealand Companion Animal Register.



Ensure your animal is always wearing appropriate identification tags

Have an emergency evacuation kit ready to go if you need to leave in a hurry.



Keep a list of phone numbers for local veterinarians, animal shelters, and council animal control facilities.

Establish a plan to keep your pets safe



If your pets are already microchipped, please log in to your NZCAR account (animalregister.co.nz) to ensure your pets are correctly registered to you and that your contact details are up to date. If you have any trouble, you can contact the support team at:

info@animalregister.co.nz
0508 LOSTPET (567873)

If you lose or find an animal throughout the course of an emergency, check the [LostPet.co.nz website](http://LostPet.co.nz). Here you can report a lost or found pet and see a nationwide map of all reported lost and found pets.

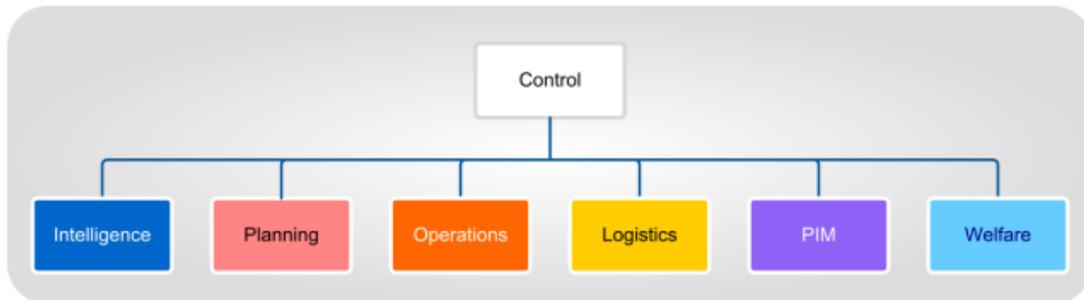
See our [website](#) for more in depth information, such as what to include in your emergency evacuation kit. MPI also have a [Planning for Pets checklist](#), including items to include in a first aid kit and what to do if you have to evacuate.



**Companion
Animals NZ**
Role In Emergencies

Companion Animals NZ sits on the Animal Welfare subfunction, which is one of nine sub functions in the 'Welfare' branch of the Civil Defence Plan.

The Ministry of Primary industries chairs our group, which includes Iwi representation, the NZ Veterinary Association, SPCA, Federated Farmers, HUHA, Animals Evac, the Massey University Veterinary Emergency Response Team, and the NZ Institute of Animal Management.



For the Auckland Flood and Gabrielle response, we sent free microchips and scanners and facilitated free NZCAR registrations for affected people.

In more localised emergencies we have the ability to send out information via our NZ Companion Animal Register (NZCAR).

General Manager, David Lloyd, stayed at the temporary animal shelter during the Gabrielle aftermath. He established a logistics mapping system to track which donated food and supplies had been delivered around the region and where demand was high.



"It was amazing to see groups and individuals in the community come together to support each other." he said. "Being on the ground at an emergency has given me a new appreciation of the work that goes on and how we can further support kiwis with readiness and response to an emergency."



The Shelter Register Aotearoa database now has 8 months' worth of data providing information about the number of cats and dogs entering and leaving shelters and rescues throughout New Zealand.

Between June and November, over 50% of cats coming into shelters were strays, and approximately 25% were surrendered by their owners. Numbers were similar for dogs but there were more dogs surrendered than stray. The unfortunate implication of these statistics is that more than 75% of animals transitioning through these shelters are unwanted. Undesexed animals contribute significantly to this outcome.

There are **1.2 million** owned cats in NZ.
Half are female. 8% are not desexed.

That's **48,000** potential breeding
female cats in NZ.



An average litter size is **4** kittens



And a cat can have **3** litters per year



That's **576,000** kittens per year
There are **1.8M** NZ households.

That's a new kitten for each
household every **3** years.



The data in more recent months clearly shows the result of "kitten season". The number of cats and kittens entering shelters increased by 300% between September and November, with this figure expected to further increase until around January. Female cats have the potential to produce up to 300 kittens in their reproductive lifetime, while male cats have a much higher capacity to contribute to breeding. This highlights the importance of desexing prior to puberty unless animals are registered for breeding or have an exemption from a veterinarian. This applies to both cats and dogs.

In many cases, this data reinforces what we already know, however in order to advocate for change, it is vital that anecdotal evidence is quantified to verify and substantiate what is actually happening.

We are always looking for rescues and shelters working with cats and dogs to take part and you can join at any time. It doesn't matter how big or small your shelter is, all data is valuable in helping to quantify the shelter landscape so we can determine the best way to help improve this welfare issue.

For more information about Shelter Register Aotearoa, see the [website](#), or email saraho@companionanimals.nz.



Animal Behaviour & Training Accreditation Programme

We have been making progress with our brand-new Puppy Preschool Educator standard. This standard will be in place for organisations wishing to gain accreditation for their Least Invasive Minimally Aversive (LIMA)-based puppy socialisation classes. We estimate that there are easily 10,000+ puppies who attend puppy classes annually around the country. This means that currently there are hundreds of unregulated puppy preschool providers who all offer varying levels of knowledge and understanding about working with puppies during their socialisation period and thousands of new puppy guardians seeking advice. Our aim is to offer a list of practitioners, like our already established directory of [training and behaviour professionals](#), so guardians and referring professionals can feel safe in knowing they will be receiving the best quality advice.

In addition, we are working on some major upgrades to our website. We hope to make it accessible and user friendly for everyone in need of guidance, from animal guardians, to training and behaviour professionals looking for accreditation advice and for organisations to easily submit their application online. Stay tuned for more updates.



Advocacy Work

Improved welfare for pets at local and central government level

Companion Animals NZ advocates for improved welfare for pets at both local and central government level. We are currently working alongside other welfare organisations to advocate for regulations around cat management, and prolonged tethering and confinement in dogs.

[Mandatory desexing and microchipping of cats](#)

The Environment Select Committee is considering a petition to make microchipping, registration and desexing of cats mandatory, and Companion Animals NZ has made a submission in support of this.

Overpopulation of cats is a huge problem in New Zealand and negatively impacts biodiversity, people, and other animals. Microchipping and desexing is an essential part of keeping the cat population under control and ensuring cats remain happy and healthy in their homes. However, to achieve and maintain manageable numbers of companion, stray and feral cats, a comprehensive, regulated approach to cat management is needed at a national level. This is something Companion Animals NZ, along with several other organisations, have highlighted in their submission to the Select Committee. You can read submissions relating to this petition [here](#) (scroll down the page).

Until such time that central government implements a national cat management act, we will continue to work with local councils to instigate bylaws at a local level.

Breaking the Chain

SPCA has been working behind the scenes for many years to put an end to prolonged tethering and confinement in dogs. In their Break the Chain campaign last year over 20,000 people got behind the petition to make their voices heard and Government is now considering ways in which prolonged tethering could be regulated. MPI have proposed several regulations for consideration and are asking for feedback from the public around which of these (or a combination of) would address the issue of prolonged tethering. These include:

1. Prohibiting prolonged tethering that is likely to cause distress to a dog.
2. Requiring that tethered dogs get one hour off tether each day.
3. Prohibiting tethering to a fixed stationary point.
4. Prohibiting the tethering of certain types of dogs.
5. Prohibiting the tethering of dogs displaying certain physical signs of distress.
6. Requirements on how tethering can happen.

Public consultation is now open and submissions can be sent to animal.consult@mpi.govt.nz before 5pm, 15 March. Companion Animals NZ will be making a submission in support of these regulations, and we encourage you to do the same. To help with this, SPCA have created a sample email. You can find this, and more information regarding [prolonged tethering and confinement in dogs here](#).



Help Shape The Future

For Our Pets

As well as being a welfare charity, Companion Animals NZ owns and operates the [NZ Companion Animal Register](#), a national microchip database that helps reunite lost pets with their guardians. We want to help owners understand how to create A Good Life for their companion animals. When you register your microchipped animal on the NZCAR you have the option to receive welfare messaging, including tips to help improve the lives of your pets (see below).

Communication options

We would love to send you emails about Companion Animal health & welfare and offer guidance during emergencies.

I'm happy to receive email communication *

Yes No

Send SMS/text to offer guidance during emergencies.

I'm happy to receive SMS communication. *

Yes No

Guardians are prompted to subscribe to animal welfare email messaging and/or emergency management text messages when registering their animal on the NZCAR. (Emergency texts are only sent with approval of with Civil Defence/MPI)

This year, we will be contacting those of you who have ticked this box and offering the opportunity to participate in research that will help make positive change for New Zealand's companion animals. This may be in the form of providing feedback via surveys or taking part in studies involving your pets. Participation is entirely optional, but your input would be valued; your contribution can help us shape the future for our pets.



Click [here](#) to unsubscribe.