To all Veterinarians, Practice managers and Nurses.

The bushfires in January 2013 brought the need for veterinary triage services to fire-affected areas to the fore. From the experience of those involved in the response to animal welfare issues in southern Tasmania in January, the ability to mount a well managed and effective animal welfare response should be a permanent feature of future responses. VERTT has been formed by the private veterinary sector to help fill the gap but...

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

**THE MISSION:**
To serve the Tasmanian community by promoting emergency preparedness, and conducting veterinary triage, treatment and reuniting of animals affected by emergency events.

**HOW CAN YOU HELP?**
If you have a recognised veterinary degree or vet nursing qualification, are a veterinary practice manager or are just plain good at what you do in this profession you can help by volunteering knowledge, experience and time

- during an emergency and
- for ongoing training (of yourself and of other VERTT members).

**INTERESTED? WHAT YOU NEED TO DO:**
We would like you to complete the attached expression of interest form and forward to (email) VERTT@wildcaretas.org.au or (snail mail) VERTT, c/- ABWB, 13 St Johns Avenue, NEWTOWN TAS 7008 or Fax 03 62781875.

**WHAT HAPPENS THEN?**
A member of VERTT will contact you to provide you with more details about current VERTT needs and priorities. If you are still interested you will be invited to become a Veterinary Emergency Response Team Tasmania (VERTT) volunteer.

There will be some training specifically aligned with your existing qualifications and experience, which will be provided.

**THE RESULT:**
When (not if) another disaster occurs like Dunalley we will have a list of volunteers that are willing and able to be part of the VERTT team. The VERTT will be activated to provide authorised animal welfare services to affected areas and animals will not be left to suffer. This will include:

- Starting the process of reuniting animals with their families
- Providing assessment of affected animals
- Ensuring relief of pain of the animals affected
- Providing resources for transportation of animals to veterinary clinics and shelters

*’Working together has to be better’*

So let’s join forces and work together so that when something like the Forcett Fire happens again we are better prepared to help these animals and their owners and together we will make a real difference.

**WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?**
Contact Tahlia Royce on verttas@outlook.com or Mary Lou Conway 03 61653258 / 0408356407 or VERTT@wildcaretas.org.au