

The Pet Safety Net

MEDIA RELEASE

23rd August 2009

**A safety Net for Your Pets - When Disaster Strikes.
Who could you trust to step in and help your animals?**

MDBA PACERS [Preventing Animal Cruelty in Emergency Response Situations] has launched its new “Buddy System” to help keep Australian pets safe.

“If a disaster occurs anywhere in Australia in any community, local government and disaster relief organisations will do all they can to help, but being prepared, especially if people also own domestic animals is really important,” said Julie Nelson, National President.

“Animals are dependent on humans to survive.

“That is why as caregivers, people need to take the time, *now*, to prepare to evacuate and care for their pets when something happens.

“If they don’t, their animal may not survive.

“In an emergency, needless to say, animals and their safety take second place to humans so people really need to have given a lot of thought in advance to what arrangements will be required to take care of their animals.

“If you are not at home when a disaster strikes, who could you trust to step in and help your animals? If you became ill and unable to look after your animals temporarily, who could you trust to come in and help them? Who do you trust to understand your love and attachment to your pets, and to uphold your values on the importance of keeping your animals safe as a priority?

MDBA Pacers [Preventing Animal Cruelty in Emergency Response Situations] www.mdbapacers.org.au is a national non-profit company with charitable status that provides a safety net for pet owners when they are faced with a disaster or unexpected personal event.

It does this by providing hardship and disaster preparedness programs, and goods, services and support networks including temporary accommodation for pets when things go wrong.

“Part of what we do is about helping pet owners to be more aware of their pet's vulnerability if they strike hard times, and we have been able to gather volunteers, services and equipment registries in preparation for when we may be needed,” Mrs Nelson said.

“With the bushfire and cyclone seasons looming we have now launched our buddy system, the idea of which was born from our experiences with pet owners during and after the Victorian bush fires and Queensland floods earlier this year.

“This is designed to help people who own pets to be more aware of potential issues they will need to have covered and to provide a safety net to help their animals if disaster strikes or they suffer a personal event which requires outside assistance for their animals,” said Mrs Nelson.

“This is a great way for all Australian domestic animal owners to better protect their animals and everyone is invited to enrol in our buddy system to ensure that their animals have a better chance at staying safe.”

MDBA PACERS Buddy system is now open for registration. Further information is available on the MDBA PACERS website www.mdbapacers.org.au or by phoning (02) 6927-6706.

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