

In-house veterinary model of animal management in remote Aboriginal communities



Who are we?

- 185,176 square kilometres – more than 80% land mass of Victoria
- About 7,000 residents
- 4790 residents receive vet service
- 2 vets, 5 animal management workers
- One of two Councils that employ in-house veterinarians for Animal control



Map of Roper Gulf Regional Council

Background

- Large scale culling programs
- Ad hoc vet service for 30 years
- Contracting vets
- Necessary due to remoteness- furthest community is 770 km away



Funding

- Council discretionary funding
- Territory Housing levy
- Grants
- User-pay service

What we do- at a glance



Family of pups recovering post-op in Robinson River

- Upstream population control
- Large scale desexing program
- Education
- Local Animal Management Worker employment
- Dangerous dog management
- Animal welfare
- Partnerships
- Natural disaster response

Why do we do it?

- Environmental health
- Public safety
- Animal control
- Animal health and welfare
- Feral animal control
- Housing stock protection



WHAT WE DO

Veterinary service provision

- Blanket parasite prevention
 - Dectomax given on “sandwich”- treats ticks, scabies, and most gut worms
- Animal registration database
 - AMRRIC application
- Free desexing – surgical and chemical
- Parvo virus vaccination on a fee for service basis, or free with desexing surgeries
- Euthanasia of sick and unwanted pets
- Treatment of sick and injured animals – animal welfare
- Delivered via a door to door service
- Community member assists



Clifton Jackson (AMW) preparing dectomax for dog worming

WHAT WE DO

Education

- House to house
- School based education
 - Classroom education sessions
 - High school work experience
 - Vet clinic excursion
- Adult education
 - Ranger groups
 - Families as First Teachers
 - Community Development Program participants
 - Local Authority
- Animal health and welfare messages in Kriol for radio



AMRRIC education session in Minyerri



Vet clinic excursion in Robinson River



Ringworm education session in Bulman



High school work experience in Minyerri

WHAT WE DO

Local AMW Employment



Mrs. Sarah-Lee Silver - Ngukurr



Mr. Clifton Jackson –
Robinson River



Mrs. Charlene Hall – Beswick



Mr. Roy Whitehead –
Borroloola

WHAT WE DO



Dangerous Dog Management

- Vet program reduces development of dangerous dogs
 - Desexing reduces aggression
 - Mother dogs protecting pups are responsible for many dog bites to children
 - Reduces pack formation
- School based education
 - Dog body language
 - Be a tree
- Response to dog attack:
 - Regulatory order
 - Police
 - By-Law development



“Be a tree” school education

WHAT WE DO

Animal Welfare

- Remote
- Animal welfare concerns
 - Parvovirus
 - Young livestock (foals, calves, baby buffalo, baby donkeys)
 - Scabies
 - Heavy tick burdens- partnership with local shops to stock Nexgard
- Respond to animal welfare concerns via
 - Treatment or euthanasia of sick animals
 - By-Law development



Motherless calf in Robinson River following cyclone Trevor



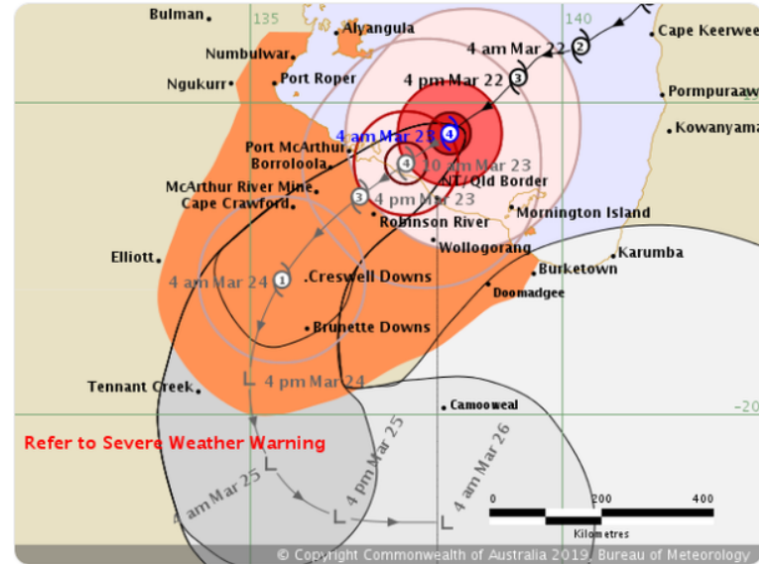
Scabies affected dog in Borroloola

WHAT WE DO

Natural Disaster Response



Cat feeding in Numbulwar



Trajectory of cyclone Trevor



Dog feeding in Numbulwar

- Cyclone Trevor March 2019
- Numbulwar, Borroloola, Robinson River and Urapunga were evacuated
- Animal welfare response and animal feeding program until repatriation

WHAT WE DO



McARTHUR RIVER MINE
COMMUNITY BENEFITS TRUST
Program partner



OUTBACK
Stores
Working With Communities

Partnerships

- McArthur River Mine, Community Benefit Trust
- The Department of Animal Welfare
- Outback Stores
- Mimal Ranger Group
- Sunrise Health

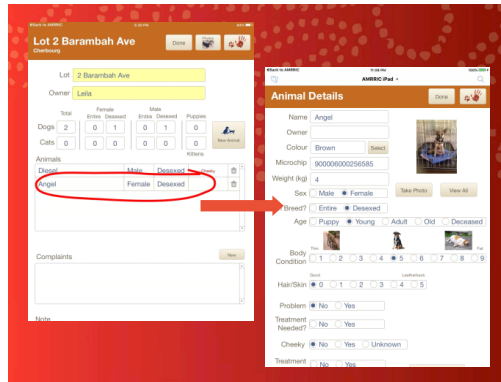


Weemol Women's Ranger Group performing animal census

WHAT WE DO



Courtney Falls, AMRRIC Education Officer delivering school-based education



AMRRIC application

Working with AMRRIC

- School education
- Bravecto donations
- Food donations
- Volunteers – nurse and vets
- AMRRIC application – registration database
- Data organisation
- By-Law consultancy



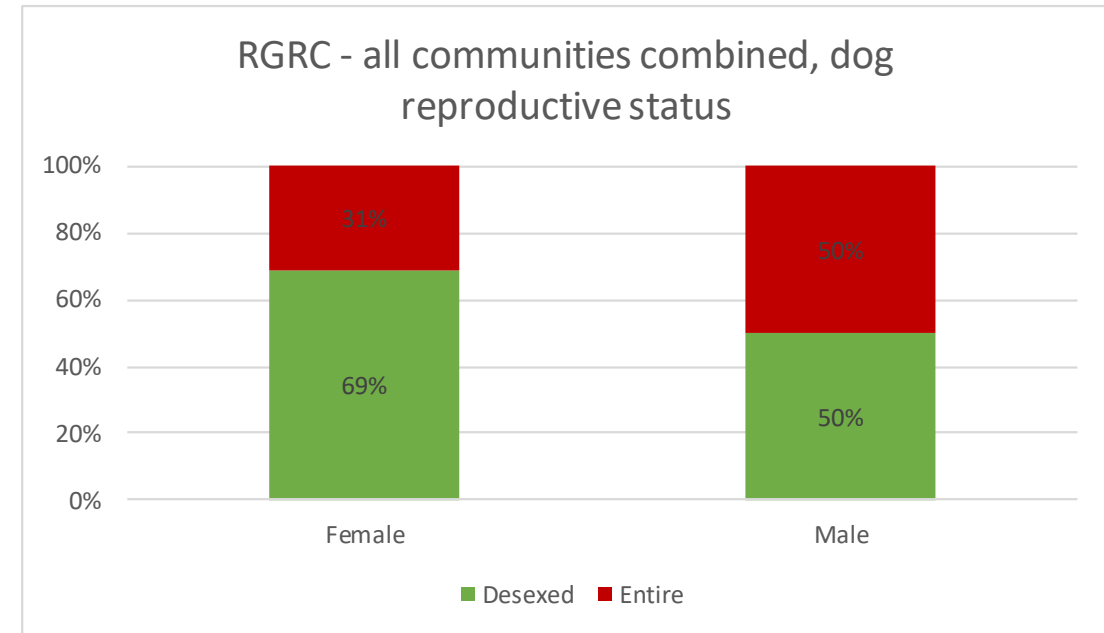
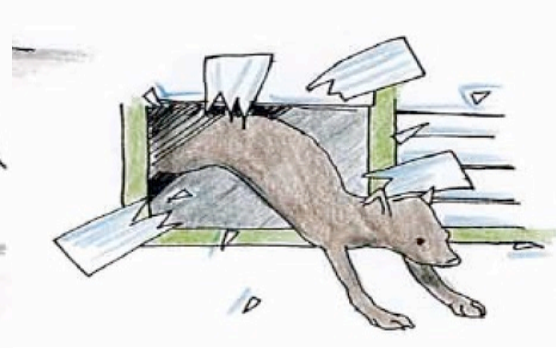
Artwork during AMRRIC classroom education



Vet team and AMRRIC volunteers in Borrooloola

Why we do it

- Population churn
- Animal control
 - Self-limiting population
- Animal health and welfare
- Public health
 - Reduces sores that can cause rheumatic heart diseases, reduces zoonosis of worms including roundworm and hookworm, Giardia, Salmonella, Campylobacter
 - Improvement in mental health
- Feral animal control
 - Dingo hybridisation with domestic dog
 - Feral cats
- Housing stock protection
 - Destruction of property
 - Pulling bins down to scavenge



What is the result?

- Less animal turnover - healthy, loved animals
- Empathy
- Improves the human – animal bond
- New attitudes to pet ownership

PEACEFUL COMMUNITY

