Committee Secretariat

Governance and Administration Committee

Parliament Buildings

Wellington

[Insert date]

To the Governance and Administration Committee,

**Submission on the Emergency Management Bill (Bill No. 225-1)**

[Insert a paragraph about why you are making a submission. This could include your own experiences in a disaster situation or some general comments about supporting the veterinary profession.]

**General position**

There is ambiguity in the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 about what actions people or organisations can take to ensure the welfare of animals in an emergency.

**Recommendations**

I/we support the New Zealand Veterinary Association Te Pae Kīrehe (NZVA) recommendations that the following changes are made to the proposed Emergency Management Bill:

1. Clause 102 (Entry on premises) is amended to include animals, and to clarify that entry onto premises is allowed to rescue animals (as it is to rescue humans)
2. Clause 102 (Entry on premises) is amended to include the word ‘property’, so farms are covered by the clause
3. Clause 107 (Power to carry out inspections and other activities in relation to property and things) is amended to clarify that animals are covered, and that the power to carry out inspections and other activities may be exercised to ‘seize’ animals for their safety/rescue
4. Animals are recognised as property in the Emergency Management Bill, as they are in the Crimes Act.

In addition, I/we support the NZVA’s recommendations that the following changes are made in the wider policy setting space:

1. A shift from the current human-centric approach to emergency management to a systems integrated approach. This approach should recognise the interdependencies of people, animals and the environment, enabling the implementation of the Coordinated Incident Management System (CIMS) 3rd edition principles prioritising animal welfare. This would mean that CDEM would be obligated to include animals in emergency response and recovery processes, and that animals would be included in NEMA national and regional plans.
2. The Government officially recognises veterinary services as an essential service during emergencies, as it does with disease incursion plans such as COVID-19 and the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Response and Recovery Plan.
3. Veterinary services are funded as part of the emergency response funding through CDEM. The NZVA recommends an AWEM Reimbursement Fund is established to enable AWEM support agencies to effectively deliver essential animal welfare services during emergencies and aid in the recovery process.

Yours sincerely,

[Insert your name, job title and organisation]