NATSIEH 2019 Abstract Submission

**Presentation Title:** Enhancing animal management delivery with education resources

**Presentation Type:** Power Point

**Abstract**

Effective animal management programs need community support and collaboration. Ongoing and meaningful education can promote an understanding of the benefits of the program (the benefits to both individuals, their family and the broader community) and consequently increase community engagement.

To assist in the delivery of animal-focused education, AMRRIC has developed a number of freely-available, culturally appropriate resources in collaboration with communities, schools, ranger groups, FaFT Centres and stakeholders. These resources aim to promote responsible pet ownership and care, whilst assisting to enhance the delivery of animal management activities. In this presentation, AMRRIC’s Education Officer will demonstrate a variety of recently developed educational resources, indicating how each can be delivered, their benefits, target audience, how to access each resource.

The resources featured in this presentation will include:

Felt Cat

This resource features a sewn felt cat, which is capable of holding a large number of toy native animals inside its stomach/pocket. The audience is asked to remove one animal from the stomach of the cat. This is repeated until no animals remain inside the cat. This is a visually powerful tool to highlight the destructive impacts that hunting cats can have on native animals.

Cat Breeding Mat

The Cat Breeding Mat is an engaging visual tool used to demonstrate the prolific breeding habits of cats over the period of a year. This resource uses a large 1.5x1m felt mat which has been sewn to illustrate a community environment.

What Wally Needs Story Book

This story book tells the adventures of a very lovable, yet mischievous dog called Wally. Wally’s family have forgotten to take him with them on their trip and he is now alone and left to fend for himself. Wally starts searching for someone to help him, but along the way gets himself into lots of trouble. The story highlights the importance of being a responsible pet owner.

Dog Feelings Charades

The aim of this activity is for students to develop a deeper understanding of dog body language and what dogs are trying to communicate. Students select a playing card and then use role play to act out the particular dog body language card they have chosen. It is a fun and interactive game which consolidates students learning.

The activities provided in this presentation are outlined in downloadable step by step lesson plans with accompanying templates and instructions for lesson materials. Activities are designed to support the teaching of empathetic animal care and owner responsibility, whilst equipping those involved with delivering animal health and management programs with the tools to independently delivery education within their own community. These resources can be used as the building blocks for education delivery, taking the stress out of planning and creating activities.

**Abstract Summary**

To assist in the delivery of animal-focused education, and in collaboration with communities, schools, ranger groups, FaFT Centres and stakeholders, AMRRIC has developed a number of freely-available, culturally appropriate resources. These resources aim to promote responsible pet ownership and care, whilst assisting to enhance the delivery of animal management activities. This presentation will focus on a variety of newly developed educational resources addressing issues such as cat overpopulation and breeding, dog care/empathy and responsible pet ownership. These tools have been developed with significant input from community members, ranger groups, stakeholders and educational professionals and can be used to support pre-existing programs or be the educational foundation for newly established animal management programs.

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**Main Presenter Bio:**

Courtney Falls is the Education Officer for Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities (AMRRIC). She has a Bachelor of Education in Junior Primary & Primary and spent her first years of teaching in South Australia on the Spencer Gulf in a town called Whyalla. She then followed her passion for the outback and worked of a remote cattle station in central Queensland for two years as a teacher and within the stock camp. She has been the Education Officer with AMRRIC since 2016 and continues to enjoy creating appropriate education resources and delivering animal education to remote Indigenous communities across Australia.