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10-May-2021

ABA questionnaire to highlight Key challengers Rehomers face

To assist Parks Victoria with their Intent to Increase Brumby Rehoming Capacity

The Australian Brumby Alliance (ABA) advocates for the recognition, management, preservation and welfare of Australian Wild Horses to be retained in sustainable population levels within the heritage areas they have occupied for 150 to 200 years.

Wild horse populations in the east Victorian Alpine park increase at 15% annually (from: Protection of the Alpine National Park DRAFT Feral Horse Action Plan March 2021-citing Cairns 2019).

The Cairns 2019 report provided a population level of 5,000. Since then, this area has experienced severe, wide ranging fires which ravaged the region's flora and fauna, including its Brumbies. A new count is required to estimate current Brumby numbers, which locals say closer to 2,000, if that.

The VicAlps horse management plan draft 2021 explains that, Parks Victoria;

- Received 300 enquiries which became 10 completed EOIs from suitable applicants, and offers to rehome 38-51 horses per year (from Barmah, Bogong and the east VicAlps),
- Will build a *cooperative partnership* with groups or individuals interest and with appropriate skills in rehoming captured horses *to enable successful rehoming* to occur,
- Plans removing 500 horses during 21/22 and revise removals after new counts.

10 expression of Interest (EOI)s to rehome Victorian Brumbies during the last EOI rehoming round, from 300 inquiries, suggests considerable reluctance by potential rehomers to take on such a highly demanding, but rewarding role to gentle and rehome Brumbies via Parks Victoria's EOI process.

ABA rehomers expressed concern at the low EOI uptake and felt a survey would help to provide PV with more information about the demands and challenges Rehomer's face as a starting point.

The ABA supports Parks Victoria's initiative to build "a cooperative partnership" with all rehomers and so initiated discussion to assist PV's intent to increase rehoming capacity, such as this survey.

We now invite Victorian group or individual Rehomers, or interstate Rehomers interested to submit an EOI to PV, to complete the survey below, and reply to pickjill@hotmail.com .

ABA Survey: Challenges/Ideas to increase Vic Brumby Rehoming

SECTION A - Background Questions (for follow-up)

Contact person name Mob:

Rehomer location: Email:

Group/Individual name:

Month/year commenced Brumby Rehoming:

No. of Brumbies collected from Parks Victoria: (Any state total:

SECTION B - Receiving Brumbies from Parks Victoria (PV))

B-1a: Your experience (positive/negative) of PV's EOI assessment process:

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B-1b: Suggestions to improve PV's EOI assessment process:

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B-2a: Your experiences (positive/negative) of PV's advice that Brumbies are ready for the rehomer:

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B-2b: Suggestions to improve PV's advice that Brumbies are ready for the rehomer:

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At present, PV delivers Brumbies within a set distance. National Parks & Wildlife Services (NPWS) use purpose build holding yards (Blowering). Is PV's current process working, or not, for you, and your suggestions to improve safe, humane transfer of wild Brumbies from Park to Rehomer.

B-3a: Your experiences (positive/negative) of PV's transfer of Brumbies to rehomer

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B-3b: Suggestions to improve PV's transfer of Brumbies to rehome

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Currently Brumbies are often trapped in higher numbers over short periods due to weather, foaling and other welfare issues. Potential to spread brumby availability could be, for example;

- A single PV contact person for rehoming to ring/email for advance warning/queries etc,
- Provide temporary holding areas for rehoming to draw from during non-trap periods, or?

B-4a: Your experience (positive/negative) of PV's short periods to take Brumbies:

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B-4b: Suggestions to improve PV's short periods to take Brumbies:

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People buying a Brumby require written proof to pass a Brumby Breed register for showing.

B-5a: Your experience gaining written proof the Brumby has been trapped by PV:

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B-5b: Suggestions to improve gaining written proof the Brumby has been trapped by PV:

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B-6: Additional comments about Receiving Brumbies from Parks Victoria (PV)?

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SECTION C - Financial help for new rehome basic set up costs

Rehome set-up cost examples include, but are not limited to: fencing, yards, loading Ramp, water points, power, hardened surfaces for trucks etc. what experiences and suggestions can you offer?

C-1a: Your experience in the cost of providing essential “set-up” facilities for a new rehomer

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Attach a list if you wish and highlight : Other costs ATTACHED with you name on it.

C-1b: Suggestions to assist essential “set-up” facility costs for a new rehomer:

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Attach a list if you wish and highlight: Other suggestions ATTACHED with you name on it.

C-2: Additional comments on providing essential “set-up” facility costs for a new rehomer

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Attach a list if you wish and highlight: Other comments ATTACHED with you name on it.

SECTION D - Financial help towards rehomer ongoing costs

There is a direct relationship between rehomer capacity and the money available to the rehomer to collect, manage, provide appropriate facilities, Vet costs such as gelding, microchipping and add hoc health issues, feed and handling ongoing costs, etc.

C-1a: Your experience in the cost of providing essential “ongoing” rehomer services:

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Attach a list if you wish and highlight: Other ‘ongoing’ costs ATTACHED with you name on it.

C-1b: Suggestions to assist essential “ongoing” rehomer services:

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Attach a list if you wish and highlight: Other suggestions ATTACHED with you name on it.

C-2: Additional comments to assist essential “ongoing” rehome services:

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Attach a list if you wish and highlight: Other comments ATTACHED with your name on it.

SECTION D - Other challenges rehomers need to deal with

Managing a rehoming facility includes more than costs for set-up and ongoing services, such as personal stress to volunteers managing the facility, droughts, floods increasing feed and repair bills, having the time available for 24 hours surveillance, sick Brumbies, watering, feeding, gentling, managing websites/Facebook to display Brumbies ready for adoption, juggling full-part time paid jobs, family, social life etc.

Please, in your own words, comment on such challenges and anything else you wish to cover.

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Thank you for your time and suggestions for us to collate and provide to Parks Victoria to assist their initiative to build “a cooperative partnership” with rehomers and their intent to expand rehoming capacity. For queries, please contact Jill Pickering on 0400-558-772 or email pickjill@hotmail.com

Please email your completed survey to Jill Pickering on pickjill@hotmail.com
thanks,

Australian Brumby Alliance, 10-May-2021