

Australian Wildfires and The Powerful Opportunity Veterinarians Possess to Change the World

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What disturbs you enough that moves you from an observer to an activist may be different for each one of us. For some of us it may be a suffering child or a family member's illness. For many veterinarians, it likely involves animal suffering or animal health. The variety of our experiences, our birth locations, our race, religion, or partner orientation, in other words, our differences matter way less than what we share. The strengths of our bonds were forged through the process of accomplishing our careers and doing whatever it is we call our "job".

The wildfires that occurred in 2019-2020 were devastating to the land, people, and animals over much of coastal Australia from north to south. The US and world media was saturated with photos and videos of Australian animal carers' and veterinarians doing what they could do to rescue the animal survivors. Firefighters, first responders, citizen heroes, neighbors, friends, and good people deployed to do all that they could do as well. The images were burned on the consciousness of compassionate people in Australia and abroad. I saw the animals and thought of my colleagues in the trenches, and it moved me from observer to activist. This is the story of this journey and my overall journey in this profession. Be prepared for some deeply personal information and hopefully some inspiration.