



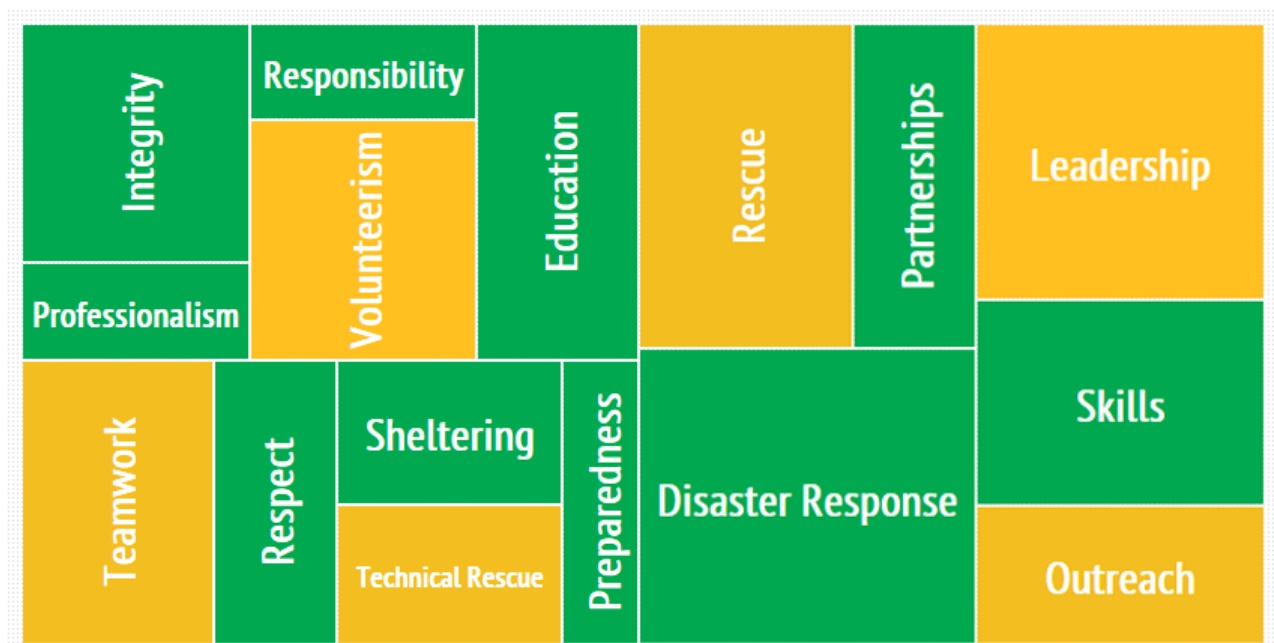
WASHINGTON STATE ANIMAL RESPONSE TEAM

ANNUAL REPORT 2013



2013 Annual Report Contents

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WASART Mission

Helping Animals and Their Owners - through disaster preparedness, education, and emergency response.

WASART Vision

To be the premier animal disaster response organization throughout the Northwest

- Recognized as a model for other animal response organizations
- Member of the Governor's Readiness Council
- State accreditation/recognition/appointment
- Best trained/highly respected

WASART Values

Integrity	We do what we say we can do. Above reproach as well as morally and legally responsible for our actions and decisions.
Education	Developing and sharing knowledge and technical expertise. Utilizing skills and available resources to inform and train members and the broader community.
Professionalism	Respect ▪ Credibility ▪ Honesty ▪ Accessibility ▪ Ethics. Excellence in reputation and delivery.
Teamwork	Collaborative skills, experience and training, and willingness to work with each other and other organizations. This allows us to expand our capabilities. Respectful collaboration to efficiently achieve our goals.
Volunteerism	Personal commitment to participate; to participate to the level we can. We are committed and we believe in our Higher Purpose.

"Helping Animals and Their Owners in Disasters"

A Message from the President



Dear Supporters,

2013 was a year of significant advancement for WASART. We began the year with our typical heavy load of well-attended training classes. And we were challenged by a series of difficult dog rescues in Whatcom and King Counties, and a closely spaced series of difficult technical horse rescues in King County that came along at a nearly one-a-week pace in early summer. These deployments further enhanced our working relationships with

several Search and Rescue organizations, fire departments and law enforcement agencies. These cooperative experiences working with other teams also resulted in several highly qualified members of the other rescue organizations deciding to join WASART as well, because of the unique challenges posed by technical animal rescue.

These new members and our extensive community outreach efforts resulted in significant growth during 2013, expanding our membership throughout Western Washington, from the Canadian border to, and into, Oregon. Positive response to several of our rescues resulted in additional contributions that allowed us to equip our second utility trailer with additional rescue equipment, making it deployment-ready, stationed further north to reduce our response times for incidents occurring north of the I-90 corridor.

Early in the year we were honored to receive a Special Achievement Award from Pierce County for our efforts at recruiting volunteers and staffing an emergency shelter for 2½ months during the last quarter of 2012, for 39 hard-to-handle horses seized for cruelty and neglect. And we were very pleased to complete a Memorandum of Understanding with RedRover, a national animal welfare organization that specializes in staffing emergency shelters in response to disasters, seizures or other emergencies. This agreement gives us the assurance that we'll have access to additional resources in the event that a large-scale disaster overwhelms our capabilities.

We further enhanced our relations with national organizations when we sent 4 members to assist the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) after Moore OK was devastated by a tornado. We also sent 23 members across the country in multiple sequences over 3½ months to support ASPCA in sheltering nearly 400 dogs seized by the FBI in multi-state raids on several dog-fighting rings. We followed this by sending 3 members to Spokane in December to assist ASPCA in sheltering 63 horses seized there, again for cruelty and neglect. These missions marked the third, fourth and fifth times we have sent teams to support ASPCA on national deployments.

We know that 2014 will bring new and still more interesting, but different, challenges and we welcome the opportunity to address them.

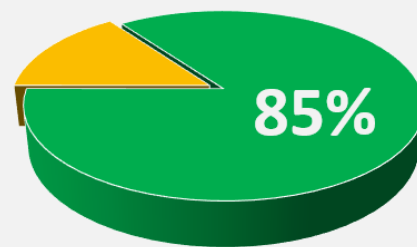
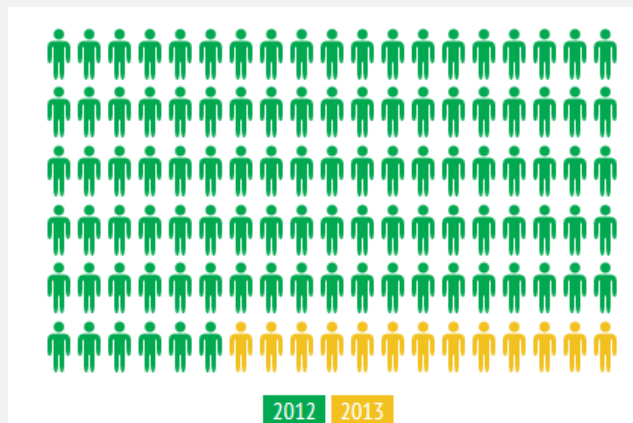
Bill Dugaard,
President

"Helping Animals and Their Owners in Disasters"

Year in Review

11 rescues	170%	136 members	9,454 hours
Number of WASART deployments in Washington state. An additional 4 national deployments were supported.	The number of WASART training attendees in 2013 was 289 , a significant increase over the previous year.	2013 membership grew by 12% year over year to 136 members, our highest to date.	WASART members volunteered a total of 9454 hours to various rescues, training events and outreach efforts, a 25% increase over 2012.

12% Membership Growth



Program Spend Ratio

WASART spent 85% of all expenses on program-related costs (\$26,998 of \$31,719 total)



WASART signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** with RedRover, our first MOU with a national animal welfare organization.

Pierce County presented WASART with a **Special Achievement Award** for our work in sheltering 39 horses seized from Graham, WA.



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Highlights

Education

A major part of what makes WASART unique among animal welfare organizations is our deep commitment to training our members to respond to animal emergency situations, both wide-scale disasters and individual animal emergencies. Whether for setting up and operating emergency animal shelters, rescuing animals in jeopardy from natural disasters, or transporting animals from danger to safety, we only deploy our members who are trained and credentialed for the situations in which they are deployed. We try to emphasize hands-on training with live animals whenever possible, and bring the perspective of instructors who are experienced in a wide variety of emergency situations.

Annual Orientation

WASART held its 2013 Orientation on January 12, 2013, as an opportunity to recruit new members to WASART, giving them a background on what we do, why we do it and how we operate. For the first time, Annual Orientation was held in 2 locations, Lake Forest Park and Milton and over 30 attendees were present. With the support of 19 WASART members, by the end of the sessions more than 18 attendees submitted membership applications.

Core Training

Core Training is a required 2-day, 16 hour course introducing a variety of topics relevant to WASART operations including: Deployment requirements; Disaster mental health; Preparedness; Basic fire safety; Biosecurity; Safety; Communications; Legalities; Base support; WASART trailers and equipment.

A total of 58 members attended the WASART 2013 Core training in March, and an additional 12 in the September offering. This training, along with additional independent study and certification requirements, is required for members to become certified for deployment, and must be renewed every 3 years.



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Field Response Training

Field Response is a 2-day, 16 hour course required of all members before deploying with any WASART field operation or rescue involving animal handling. Held in Wilkeson, WA on June 8-9 2013, 34 WASART members and non-members were given the basic skills and knowledge needed to assist animals in a variety of rescue scenarios ranging from single short term incidents to multi agency responses to full scale



disaster evacuation. The training encompasses scene awareness and safety, loading and unloading for transport, incident management and base support; hazardous materials, biosecurity, and zoonotic diseases; companion animal and livestock assessment and handling, including safety, and basic rigging awareness for technical rescue. The camp location provided overnight accommodations that roughly simulated eating and sleeping conditions that might be encountered during a multi-day deployment as well as providing more opportunity for team building. The sessions were a combination of PowerPoint presentations and practical hands on training with a wide variety of live animals, including horses, cattle, camelids, swine, goats, chickens, rabbits and dogs.

Emergency Sheltering Training

WASART conducted its 2013 Emergency Animal Sheltering training on July 13-14, 2013 in Enumclaw WA with 25 attendees participating and receiving certification to deploy in emergency shelters. The 2-day, 16 hour course included both classroom and hands-on training, covering topics such as safe companion animal and livestock handling, shelter setup and management and a mock shelter exercise using live small and large animals.

Animal Transport Training

The 6 hour Animal Transport Training is required for members to be certified to drive their own trailer or the WASART trailers, and to act in a support role as navigator, ground support spotter and scout vehicle driver during deployments, trainings and outreach events. Held on April 20, 2013 in Enumclaw WA, 31 new members and recertifying members were trained in driving skills, vehicle requirements, navigator and ground support needs, scouting and a review of the WASART vehicles and operation procedures. The hands-on segment including practice driving a variety of trailer types through cone courses, familiarity with various hitches, as well as experience being a navigator and ground support.

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Technical Rescue Team

In addition to the official bi-monthly training and ad-hoc monthly skills training, the WASART Technical Rescue Team (TRT) hosted three Ropes certification classes in 2013, all held in the Enumclaw, WA area.



Ropes I, a 2-day, 20 hour course taught by trainer James McNutt, was offered to members and the general public on May 18-19 and Sept 28-29. The course focused on a variety of best practice standards and skills including: rope, safety, communication, rescue roles and personal/team gear; knots, prusiks and anchors; belay, pulley and mainline raise and lower systems; knot passing, switchovers and Radium release hitch operation; rappelling, litter attachment and ascents. The course was a combination of classroom and field work and all attendees were required to demonstrate abilities and skills for credentialing. Twenty WASART members were certified and credentialed.

Ropes II, also taught by James McNutt, was offered on November 16-17 as a 2-day 20-hour course building on the skills and concepts demonstrated in Ropes I. A total of 13 TRT members attended the training on a variety of advanced ropes rescue skills including: scene assessment, vector analysis, system analysis, counting T; high angle redirect, mirror systems, Kootenay highline; Litter rigging and handling, pick-offs, rappelling and ascending, and rope end loading. Instruction was a combination of classroom and field work, resulting in all attendees being certified and credentialed in Ropes II.



Communications

WASART held its Practical Communication class in Seattle WA on August 10, 2013 to teach members about basic communications technology as well as provide familiarity and practice with FRS and VHF radios. Ten members attended the 6-hour course taught by WASART Operations Leader member Rory Kelleher.

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Technical Large Animal Rescue (Awareness)



The Technical Large Animal Rescue (TLAR) Awareness course was offered to WASART members and non-members on June 29, 2013 in Enumclaw, WA. The 8-hour training session was led by WASART Operations Leader Greta Cook and provided information on large animal rescue techniques and the hands-on experience of learning how to rig a large animal such as a horse, cow, llama, etc., for rescue. Twenty attendees practiced the techniques most commonly used in field rescue including harnesses, knots, assists, drags and rollovers, lift harness and Becker Sling operation, and trailer extraction with rescue glide.

Outreach

It was a great year for community outreach; WASART was represented at over 25 events in 2013, including meetings, conferences, one day events and multiple day events. These provide an opportunity for WASART to educate the public and members of other organizations about our Response Team, the value of emergency preparedness for pets and livestock and how WASART can help other animal and rescue organizations meet their objectives.



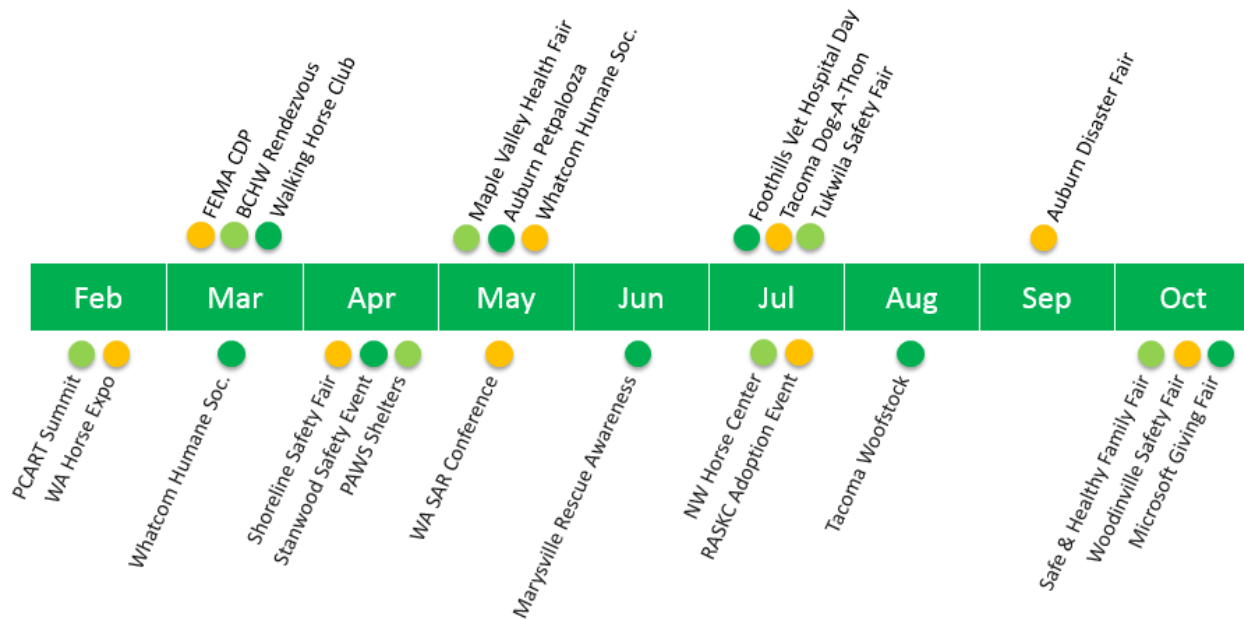
The year started off with attendance at the Western Washington Horse Expo held for three days at the Clark County Event Centre in Vancouver, WA. This event attracts horse enthusiasts from all of Western Washington and Northwestern Oregon. We were able to share WASART's mission, the training offered and documentation about emergency preparedness for our 4 footed friends.

During the spring and early summer, WASART was in attendance at several safety and health fairs, meetings of animal related groups and FEMA meetings. WASART was also present at Auburn's Petpalooza for the 4th year in a row. This event features over 150 vendors and attendance is approximately 5,000 people.

The summer brought WASART's repeat attendance at the Tacoma/Pierce County's Dog-A-Thon and the Dugan Foundation's Woofstock. Members also staffed a table at the Regional Animal Services of King County's adoption event held in Kent. Sharing information while watching, and sometimes, helping, animals finding their forever home is one of the many rewards of WASART membership.

The fall brought more safety, disaster and emergency fairs in various towns and counties, including a new type of event hosted by Microsoft, called Giving Fair. WASART was on site for five consecutive days in October providing information about its mission, and enjoyed a fantastic reception from the attendees.

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Another significant event that is critical to WASART outreach and partnership efforts is our participation in the annual Washington State Search and Rescue Conference. WASART has served and will continue to be a member of the SAR Conference Steering Committee to plan and organize the conference. WASART presented two classes this year: “WASART -- Who We Are and How We Support SAR,” and an “Animal Technical Rescue Skills Demonstration”. The technical rescue skills class included demonstrations of rigging large and companion animals for

vertical lift; various forward, rearward and sideways drags; and how to utilize readily available equipment and tools that the animal owner can access to assist with common rescue scenarios. This is a great opportunity for WASART to share our knowledge and skills and increase our involvement in the larger SAR community.

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Preparedness

Annual Shelter Exercise

In addition to the preparedness information and training we provide to the community, WASART strongly believes in honing our own skills through various hands-on and ongoing practice exercises. One of our most popular (and fun!) events is our Annual Shelter Exercise. This year, as in years past, we took up weekend residence at the Enumclaw Expo Center to practice the WASART emergency animal sheltering plan, focused on roles and responsibilities, improving interagency coordination, locating resource gaps, developing individual responder performance, and identifying opportunities for improvement when the real event happens.

Members of the community and partner agencies are encouraged to attend as observers, bring animals to participate in the shelter, and to potentially play a role as an “emergent” untrained volunteer who might show up wishing to help at the emergency animal shelter. This year, over the two day event, 33 WASART members, 10 non-members, five Red Cross, one Green Cross, SAR 4x4, Regional Specialty Vehicle Unit, and 35 large and small animals participated in the exercise, with many attendees and animals staying overnight as they would in a real world emergency animal shelter.



Exercise sessions ran for eight hours each day and the emergency context was a significant flood event that required evacuations in the area. Guided by the WASART policies, pre-staged supplies and equipment from our WASART trailers, and ICS structure, volunteers were assigned to a different station each day based on skill level, including initial shelter setup, volunteer and housing areas, traffic ingress/egress, animal intake and reclaim procedures, animal care and cleaning, and medical and veterinary stations.

There are so many features of this exercise that make it an amazing learning and growth opportunity for our organization and our members: Volunteers assigned to a variety of tasks and areas; just-in-time training; owners and animals arriving unannounced; managing paperwork and animal identification procedures; the Green Cross Traumatologist helping with over-stressed volunteers; Red Cross volunteers serving meals; animals being their unpredictable selves; and ongoing adjustments and reorganization to the shelter as needed. Participants were exposed to the struggles, changes and iterations that can occur

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during a sheltering event. Leadership style, position management and the experience of available responders as well as the type, number and temperament of animals received, set the stage for a realistic exercise. Whether a first time attendee or an experienced responder, all of us gained experience, expanded skills and have a greater awareness of what is needed to operate a Shelter when the time comes, exemplifying our mission to support our community in times of disaster.

Technical Rescue Team

The WASART Technical Rescue Team (TRT), as with all technical rescue teams, intervenes in particularly difficult or dangerous rescue situations where conventional rescue teams cannot respond safely. WASART is one of the few technical rescue teams in Washington dedicated to animal response. Our team is specialized in the skills required to access and extract trapped animals from a variety of locations such as over cliffs, deep in bogs, stuck in wells, and places you've probably never thought of! While the core operation of technical rescue is



similar for animals and humans, the subjects WASART encounters (2000 lb. horses and fear aggressive dogs!) require specialized procedures for rigging, safety factors and mechanical advantages, patient management, and raise operations, to name a few.

In order to optimize the efficiency, skill level and safety of rescue responses, the WASART TRT meets monthly to practice and run scenarios out in the forests of the great Pacific Northwest. This, in addition to the more formal Rope I/II certifications, allows the team to evaluate gaps, continue to advance their skills and be prepared for the next deployment.

Emergency Response

This year, WASART had numerous opportunities to not only show its capabilities to the community, but also to demonstrate its place in the larger Search and Rescue/emergency response community. WASART responded to dozens of requests for assistance for a variety of animals in 2013 but there were a few that stood out.

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Horse Trapped in Ravine: Gemma

In late May of this year a 4 year old, 800 lb. Norwegian Fjord mare named Gemma disappeared from her rented pasture, and was discovered one day later on a 3x6 ft. cliff ledge approximately 70 ft. down from the top of a steep thickly wooded ravine. The property owners speculated that the mare broke through the fence and while grazing down the incline had slipped off the cliff edge. While seemingly uninjured, she was unable to self-rescue due to the steep incline. The Redmond Fire Department was first on scene but did not have the expertise to rescue the animal, at which time WASART was contacted for rescue assistance by the owner of the property. Seven WASART responders deployed to the scene late that evening at 2100 to assess the scene and after providing hay and water to the horse, decided to hold rescue operations until daybreak.

Nine WASART members, including TRT responders, returned to the scene at 0630 the following morning and determined that Gemma would need to be manually lifted up the incline via a high angle rope system. WASART contacted King County SAR Coordinator requesting assistance due to the difficult terrain, equipment requirements, large media presence, and hauling power needed to successfully complete the rescue. WASART led the technical rescue efforts and animal rigging with additional top-side rigging support from Explorer Search and Rescue (ESAR), Redmond Fire, and Seattle Mountain Rescue (SMR). Two dual mainline (mirror systems) were erected and three haul teams were utilized for the initial lift, including directional lines to mitigate any physical edge trauma to the horse. The lift route was cleared of vegetation and brush while Gemma was rigged with a fire hose vertical lift harness and a forward assist rescue strap, and mildly sedated by a veterinarian to help keep her calm.



Time was of the essence as a horse of this size can only withstand being supported by the harness for approximately 10 minutes at a time before suffering significant distress similar to suspension trauma. The high angle lift up the cliff began at 1315 and ended shortly thereafter with Gemma resting on the ground at the top of the cliff. Lead ropes were attached and Gemma,

aided by the forward assist strap, started up the hill in short spurts, falling several times and resting before regaining her strength and charging again up the slope. The raise was then resumed and ended at 1345 with Gemma on solid, level ground. Gemma was released from the rescue harness, given some hay (which she gladly accepted!) and handed over to her owner.

This 2-day operation required careful planning, choreography and intense cooperation across the teams. It is a tribute to everyone who participated that the rescue went exactly to plan, was conducted safely and the horse was unhurt. With the assistance of WASART, King County Sheriff's Office, ESAR, SMR, 4x4 Search and Rescue, Northwest Horseback SAR, Ski Patrol Rescue Team, City of Redmond Fire Department, and Tom Hansen, DVM, Gemma was brought safely to the top of the ravine and reunited with her owner. These days, Gemma is serving as therapy horse to help people with special needs.

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Draft Horse Stuck in Swamp: Coco

In June of 2013, WASART received a request for assistance from Regional Animal Services of King County (RASKC) for a 10 year old, 2000 lb. Percheron mare in Woodinville, WA who had wandered from her pasture and into a nearby bog. She was mired in soft mud up to her shoulders and was unable to extricate herself. The local fire department and a veterinarian were already on scene and although the mare had removed herself from the mud twice, she was again stuck and at risk of breaking her leg which was now trapped in the bog as she lay on her side from exhaustion.

Eight WASART field response qualified members and members of the WASART Technical Rescue Team (TRT) were deployed and on route with the WASART truck. In the meantime the Deputy Sheriff on scene requested additional support from King County SAR. Upon arrival of the WASART team, it was clear that the mare would need to be rigged for a vertical lift, high enough to clear the bog and land her on the rescue glide. WASART rigged the mare into a lift harness as well as a rear assist rescue strap, and positioned the rescue glide into position to move Coco once freed. The firefighters on scene rigged a rope system to support the vertical lift, cleared brush and trees, and added gravel and plywood to the muddy area around Coco to aid in access.



Coco was lifted to free her legs and moved on the rescue glide which then transported her into the pasture. She eventually was able to stand up although she was very unsteady and unable to put weight on her right rear leg. She gradually regained some strength and began to eat at which point the rescue teams were debriefed and demobilized. Coco suffered no lasting injuries and has recovered well. WASART was again supported by the same SAR and SPART organizations that had assisted with the Gemma rescue, as well as by the Woodinville and Kirkland Fire Departments. This was one of the heaviest lifts we, or any of the supporting parties, had encountered to date and WASART feels confident that the learnings will be critical in future rescues.

Dog over Cliff: Moses

In October of this year, a 140 lb. male Newfoundland dog slipped off the edge along the Rim Trail at the Mud Mountain Dam (MMD) while hiking with its owner. The dog, Moses, was a member of the Newfoundland Club of Seattle and a rescuer himself, trained to help swimmers in distress and recently awarded the title of Junior Level Water Dog. After extensive searching by the owner and friends, the dog was located two days later, 200 feet down the cliff on a small outcropping, at which time the owner called WASART requesting rescue assistance.



After arriving at the scene and assessing that there was not a safe way to access or lead the dog out on foot, WASART Operations Leader Greta Cook deployed eight Technical Rescue Team (TRT) members with the WASART supplies and equipment trailer to the scene, and requested additional support from Seattle Mountain Rescue (SMR) and 4X4 SAR. Working with the MMD Park Ranger to examine access routes, the WASART and SMR teams moved to the extraction site with additional gear and prepared for a rope rescue, with 4x4 teams managing radio relay and transport. A veterinarian was called to standby to care for Moses as needed.

WASART and SMR cleared brush and trees to make room for the rope systems and two SMR members rappelled down to the dog and successfully secured him in the litter; Moses was happy to comply and was very cooperative despite his exhaustion and injuries. The dog and one attendant were raised to the cliff top, followed by the extraction of the other SMR attendant. A veterinarian assessed Moses at the top of the trail and found him to be sore but in good condition and he was able to walk the quarter mile to the vehicle staging area.

Seattle Mountain Rescue and 4x4 members worked seamlessly with WASART to ensure the safe rescue of Moses and all rescue personnel. This was not our first rescue in this area and a similar incident in 2012 resulted in more significant injuries to the dog, although she survived as well. A couple years before WASART was formed, an owner lost her life trying to rescue her dog who had gone over the same cliff. This reminds us why we do what we do: To keep both humans and their animals' safe in times of disaster, both small and large.

Dog in Culvert: Sugar

In early April, two friends were hiking along an old logging road near Bellingham WA with a 3 year old black Labrador named Sugar. While sniffing around, Sugar slipped into a steep culvert and slid 30 feet down, where she was unable to self-rescue from the 18" diameter pipe, despite the calling and urging of her owner. After an hour in cold and wet in the snowy conditions, the owner called the Whatcom Humane Society who contacted WASART for rescue assistance. WASART deployed two of our Whatcom County based members to the scene, and additionally requested support from Summit to Sound (STS) Search and Rescue team.

Upon arriving at the scene, a Go-Pro video camera was mounted on a pole and lowered to further assess the situation, finding Sugar in good condition but unable to gain enough traction in the pipe to be able to move in either direction to



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freedom. Starting with the simplest approach first, the team tied blankets and towels together with sticks and ropes to create a surface that could be lowered down to the dog and help her gain traction to climb out. Once the towels were nearly under her, she started making her way up the culvert in response to her owner's calls. She stopped 15 ft. from the entrance in exhaustion and would come no further. At that time, a long pole was used to hook into Sugar's collar and pull her the rest of the way up. Once free, Sugar was ecstatic to see her owners and was found to be uninjured.

The teams had a variety of approaches that could have been taken, including entering the pipe to retrieve her with specialized harnessing and safety equipment, but in this case a relatively low tech approach was successful. We are thankful to have WASART members in the northern part of the state and appreciate the work of the supporting teams in Whatcom County.

National Deployments

WASART is often called upon to help national (and occasionally international) organizations with shelter and rescue operations and 2013 brought our highest level of engagement yet.



ASPCA,
Moore OK
Tornado

Four WASART members deployed to Moore, OK at the request of the ASPCA to support disaster sheltering in the wake of the May EF5 tornado that displaced hundreds of animals. Photo courtesy of examiner.com

WASART sent 23 members to assist the ASPCA in sheltering hundreds of pit bulls seized in one of the nation's largest dog-fighting ring busts. Photo courtesy of ASPCA

ASPCA,
Dog-
fighting
Bust



ASPCA,
Spokane
WA Horse
Seizure

Two WASART members aided the ASPCA in the sheltering, daily care and eventual placement of 63 horses seized as part of an animal cruelty investigation. Photo courtesy of KQH.com

Two members of WASART deployed to Peru to assist World Vets in their global spay and neuter efforts. Photo courtesy of World Vets

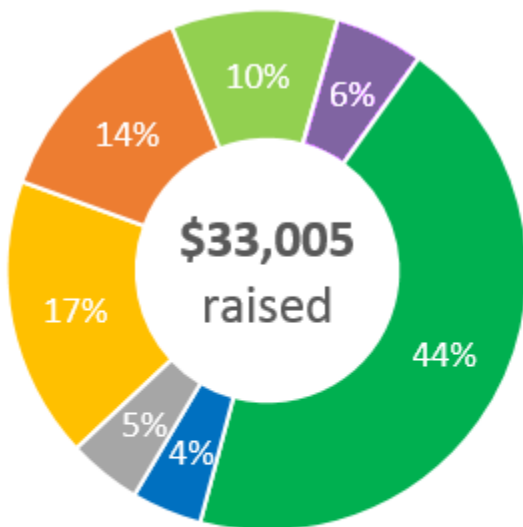
World
Vets, Peru
Spay and
Neuter



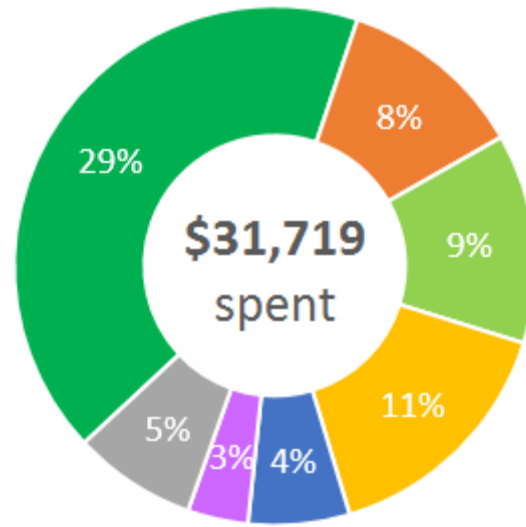
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Financial and Donor Summary

		2013	2012	% Change
ASSETS	Current Assets	\$ 28,406.44	\$ 22,044.88	29%
	Fixed Assets	\$ 11,723.49	\$ 10,046.14	17%
	Total Assets	\$ 40,129.93	\$ 32,091.02	25%
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	Total Liabilities	\$ (433.35)	\$ 1,070.24	-140%
	Total Equity	\$ 40,563.28	\$ 31,020.78	31%
	Total Liabilities & Equity	\$ 40,129.93	\$ 32,091.02	25%
TOTAL	Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 40,129.93	\$ 32,091.02	25%



■ Corporate Giving ■ Training Fees
 ■ Individuals ■ Groupon
 ■ Member Dues ■ Outreach/Other
 ■ Foundations



■ Deployment & Training ■ Insurance
 ■ Professional Services ■ Travel
 ■ Outreach & Grants ■ IT & Office
 ■ Misc

Special thanks to:

Recreational Equipment Inc. (REI), Pigeon Mountain Industries (PMI), Rescue Source, Sterling Rope, and Conterra for supporting our rescue equipment needs. We appreciate it!

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