



# 2019 WASHINGTON STATE ANIMAL RESPONSE TEAM ANNUAL REPORT



## A Year for Continued Growth and Gratitude

2016 saw more good changes for WASART to take us to new levels. Our Technical Rescue Team (TRT) received some of the most in-depth training and skills available, and are now even more highly prepared for difficult rescues that are sure to come our way. We are exceptionally proud of our TRT members, those that support them and all the hard work they've put in to make WASART truly a premier and highly skilled animal rescue organization.

We were fortunate to receive another American Kennel Club (AKC) sheltering trailer that will be extremely beneficial for any large-scale rescue/sheltering situation that we may be called on to assist with. We now have our trailers and rescue gear staged in multiple locations in Western Washington, which greatly reduces our response time.

2016 brought with it several opportunities for new and seasoned responders to hone their skills. We helped dogs, cats, pigs, horses and cattle in a variety of situations. See the 2016 Response Highlight section for detailed stories of some of the most challenging. I'm constantly amazed and impressed with not only how much our volunteers know, but also how flexible and responsive

they are in such varied situations. Every callout is different, and our teams must make many large and small adjustments in order to be successful.

Just as important as the actual rescues are, how we interact with the animals and their people is crucial to what we do. We never forget that we are working with sentient beings that respond to how we treat them; we can help calm a scared animal, or we can worsen their fear. We will always do everything humanly possible to calm them and give them a reason to trust us. We also always remember that these animals are loved and cared for by the humans that have contacted us, and treat them as we would want to be treated. We understand that these are most often stressful and deeply concerning situations, and know that helping the humans stay calm and trust us is important as well.

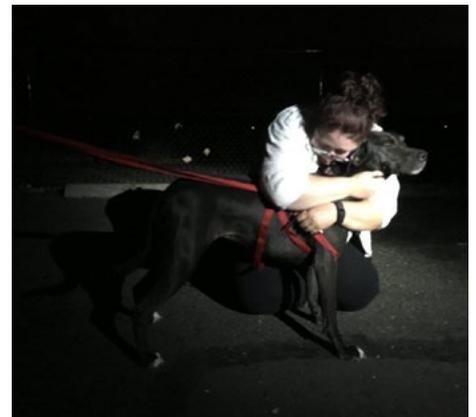
We are not only proud of our accomplishments, but so very grateful to be of service. This organization is comprised of people at every level that truly care about what we do, and how we do it. We are also so grateful to have the support of people that are just as deeply committed to the important work that we do.

With deep gratitude,  
Shawndra Michell,  
President

# Vision

WASART's 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





**Respect**

**Credibility**

**Honesty**

**Accessibility**

**Ethics**

**Values**

**Mission statement**

We help animals and their owners in disasters and emergencies.

**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**

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.



25  
Deployments



143  
Members



47,113  
Miles traveled



18,171  
In-state hours

\$545,887  
Volunteer value\*



\*At the Washington Volunteer Hourly Rate of \$30.04, as provided by [www.independentsector.org](http://www.independentsector.org), the total value of hours committed comes to \$545,887. Additional hours were volunteered at national deployments and for administrative and committee duties. WASART members participated in 10 separate ASPCA deployments with over 40 rotations, and one Red Rover deployment in 2016.

## 2016 Highlights

- Our first ever swift water rescue.
- Participation in both the FEMA 2016 Cascadia Rising exercise and King County Mass Shelter exercise.
- Recognition by the Pierce County Department of Emergency Management for helping to build disaster-resilient communities.
- Receipt of a second fully stocked sheltering trailer from the American Kennel Club.



# Board of Directors



Shawndra Michell *President*  
*president@washingtonsart.org*

Larry Fosnick Davis *Vice-President*  
*vice-president@washingtonsart.org*

Minde Sunde *Secretary*  
*secretary@washingtonsart.org*

Gretchen McCallum, J.D. *Treasurer*  
*treasurer@washingtonsart.org*

Greta Cook *Training Director*  
*training@washingtonsart.org*

Michaela Eaves *Public Information Officer*  
*public-info@washingtonsart.org*

William (Bill) Daugaard, P.E. *Past President*  
*daugaard@earthlink.net*

Jeff Dahl, DVM *Advising Specialist*  
*taiotadv@comcast.net*

## Balance

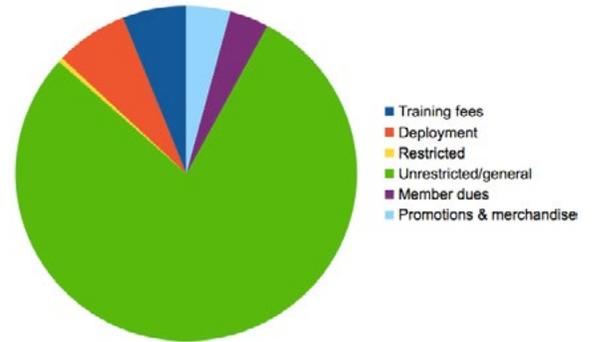
Assets	2016	2015
Current Assets	\$130,422	\$124,071
Fixed Assets	\$40,803	\$36,114
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$171,225</b>	<b>\$160,185</b>

Liabilities & Equity		
Total Liabilities	\$(30)	\$(2,460)
Total Equity	\$171,255	\$162,645
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<b>\$171,225</b>	<b>\$160,185</b>

## Income

Fundraising and income	Amount	Percent
Outreach, misc., other	\$0	0%
Training fees	\$6,684	6%
Deployment	\$7,593	7%
Restricted	\$500	1%
Unrestricted/general	\$86,806	79%
Member dues	\$4,094	3%
Promotions & merchandise	\$4,596	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$62,917</b>	<b>100%</b>

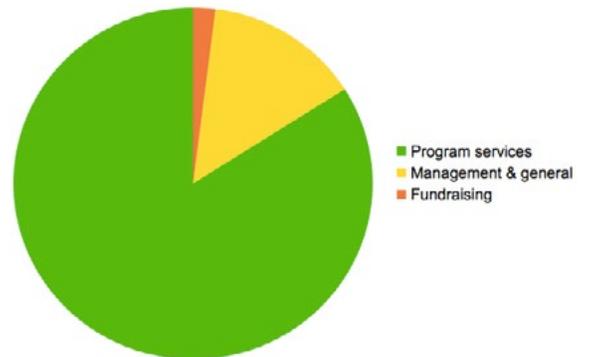
### Fundraising and income ratio



## Expenses

Summary of Expenses	Amount	Percent
Program service expenses	\$51,494	84%
Management & general expenses	\$8,555	14%
Fundraising expenses	\$1,524	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$61,574</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Program to admin ratio





## 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.

In addition to the monthly trainings conducted by our Technical Rescue Team, 10 members participated in a 5-day, intensive rigging class with the intention of increasing the available Technician level responders available for technical deployments. Additionally, many other types of trainings were held. This year, Fundamentals training and Communications workshops were offered on two separate dates. Animal Handling and Assessment, Emergency Animal Sheltering, Transport, Technical Animal Rescue and Paw Wrapping were conducted one time each. We also conducted two Open House sessions. Over 100, including non-WASART participants, were present at these offerings.





## Outreach

Emergency preparedness and education are a core part of our mission. WASART continued our commitment to community outreach in 2016; we were represented at 13 events in total including Petpalooza in Auburn, Poochapalooza in Marysville, Dog-a-Thon in Tacoma, Seattle Dog Show, Arabian Horse Expo, Mill Creek Pet Expo, North Bend Doggiestock, Lake Forest Park Preparedness Fair and the Renton CERT Expo. WASART additionally presented a pet first aid and pet disaster preparedness talk at Paddywack in Mill Creek.

## Emergency Response

Emergency response is the main type of situation WASART is called for. The main types of rescues we see are dogs over cliffs and horses over embankments or stuck in mud.

It's not just animals we are saving. We save humans as well as animals by providing a way to retrieve an animal that is in a location that could kill a well-meaning owner. In fact, nearly all the photos in this report come from emergency responses we've completed this year, including our first swiftwater rescue.

## National Deployment

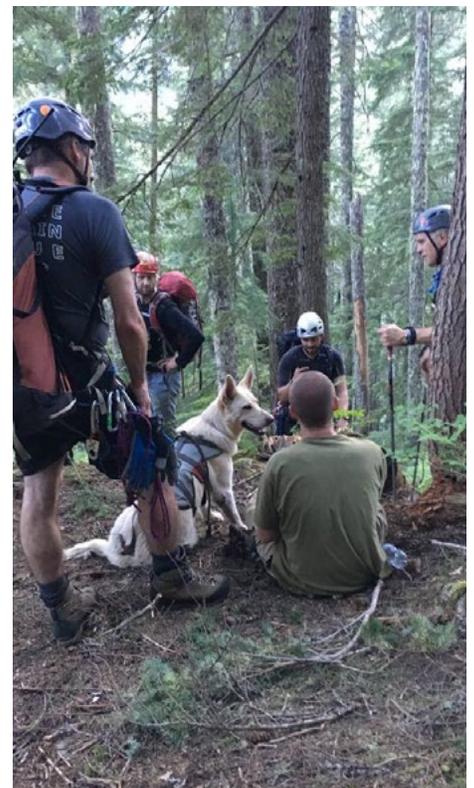
WASART members are called upon for national deployments from the ASPCA. In 2016 WASART sent over 17 volunteers on 40 rotations to assist the ASPCA on 10 different deployments. With each rotation lasting a full week including travel this comes to a total of 13 years' worth of time donated. In addition to the ASPCA, many of our members are responders with other national organizations. These deployments not only serve the animals and communities where they are located but help to develop our own skills and procedures for local situations that arise.



## Coordination with Other Agencies

In the course of our rescues we have the good fortune to assist, be assisted by and work side-by-side with, some truly amazing individuals and organizations. In some cases our work would not have been possible without their selfless and dedicated assistance.

In 2016 we coordinated with members of King County Search and Rescue, Seattle Mountain Rescue, Regional Animal Services of King County, Vashon Island Pet Protectors, volunteers from Seattle Fire Department, King County Explorer Search and Rescue (ESAR), Tacoma Mountain Rescue, various law enforcement agencies and local veterinarians, Summit to Sound Search & Rescue, and the Whatcom County Humane Society. We greatly value the relationships we have built with these fine organizations and look forward to growing these partnerships in the future.



*Last year was eventful for WASART. Our all-volunteer team is accustomed to challenging rescues of companion animals and livestock, and 2016 brought several particularly demanding rescues.*



### Swiftwater

A hiker who had rented a cabin nearby along the Nooksack River in Whatcom County noticed a dog on the other side barking for her attention. The slope the dog was on angled steeply up, and it didn't seem like the dog could easily leave. There was a rushing river between them and nothing the woman could safely do to assist the dog. Back near the cabin, she mentioned it to someone staying in another cabin. The person said she'd seen the same dog a day or two earlier. The woman called for help.

WASART received two calls on Friday afternoon, one from a Whatcom County Animal Control Officer (ACO) and one from the

woman reporting the dog. One of our members in Whatcom County went to investigate. Back in cell phone range, the scout reported the operation would need swift water and technical rescue teams along with more hands to help support the deployment. Summit to Sound Search & Rescue (STS) agreed to assist.

On Saturday morning, we assembled near the trailhead in a nearby driveway with the owner's permission. Part of the team scoped the operation and upon their return formulated a plan. Once the plan was confirmed we ran through some practice for getting the dog secured once he was caught. Additionally, throw bag practice for safety was included. Throw bags

are used in swift water rescue to give persons caught in the current chances to save themselves. A bag filled with rope is thrown ahead of the victim in hopes they can catch the rope and escape the current. Many of our volunteers ended up on throw bag duty for safety reasons. The section the dog was stranded on was bookended by rapids. We stationed one person before the first set of rapids to alert us in the event kayakers entered our area. The river is a favorite destination for the sport and we needed to ensure they could pass safely.

The hike to the dog was very short—maybe a quarter of a mile. We split into teams: the lookout for the kayakers, the swift water team who would travel to the other side of the river and attempt to secure the dog, observers above the operation and the throw bag team set at intervals downstream.

As soon as the dog saw us, he started barking. He wanted our attention. His tail wagged low and slowly. He barked at the swift water team, then noticed the other teams taking their places and ran and slipped down the bank to bark at them.

The swift water team set up the lines they'd use and the two rescuers who were wearing dry suits moved into place. One of the two rescuers is a WASART member as well as an STS member. This rescuer went first with a paracord messenger line tied to her. The cord connected her to the responder-side of the river and would also act as a way to pull a heavier rope over. The heavier rope could then be used to ferry over equipment, people and hopefully the dog. After some strong swimming, she landed safely on the other side. She approached the dog slowly but



he barked at her and then turned and ran. When nearly out of sight he sat, and waited. The rescuer, hoping the dog would become accustomed to her presence and return, tied the paracord to the tree as an anchor. Together with the rest of the team assisting the swift water rescuers she pulled the heavier rope over. The team then attached a small inflatable raft to a pulley and the second rescuer crossed the river on the raft.

Once he was over, the two rescuers waited to see if the dog would return. During the wait a plan B was made to trap the dog in the event it would not approach on its own. A couple of responders got a crate and some cans of wet dog food from the truck. As the dog was downstream it would be able to smell the food quickly and hopefully hunger would assist in trapping him. While these items were being prepared to transfer across the river the dog moved closer to the rescuers. He slipped on the rocks, circled back, tried to go up and around, slipped again – badly this time, and continued to move up the steep hillside.

The supplies for a trap were sent across by raft and while one responder worked on rigging an impromptu trap the other made her way up the hill. The dog was out of sight amongst a confused area of standing and downed trees and undergrowth. Among the plants in that area is devil's club (*Oplopanax horridus*) which has needle-like spines over much of the plant. A significant area of the hillside was covered with this plant and where the rescuer was making her way up old Devil's club plants filled in wherever the down trees lay making the steep trip up to find the dog even more difficult. Her dry suit did not provide much protection.

Eventually she spotted the dog who stood and watched her. She approached slowly. The dog was wary but allowed her to approach. She finally reached him and carefully secured him by the collar. The dog did not want to come down with her. An emergency muzzle was applied for the safety of the rescuer.

Once finished with the trap the second rescuer headed up to see if he could assist the one who had secured the dog. Once he reached the two, the rescuers carefully picked the dog up and began the descent back down the hillside. Because of the steep and difficult terrain, the two had to pass the dog back and forth so they could safely proceed. Once down the hill they continued to pass him back and forth as they worked their way back to the rope and anchor.

One rescuer sat and rested with the dog while the other broke the trap down, secured it to the raft

along with other supplies that had been brought and sent it back to the other side of the river. The responder-side team sent the raft back for the rescuers. One rescuer and the dog went next. The trip on the raft was short-lived. Both the rescuer and the dog ended up on the water as the responder-side team hauled on the ropes as fast as they could to get the pair over.

The rescuer had to hold on to the raft with one hand and keep the dog's head above the water with the other. Once on the other side the dog stood and shook himself off. He was taken immediately to the ACO who, along with another responder, went back to the vehicles and took the dog to a veterinarian for an immediate checkup. The other responder returned from the far side of the river safely.

When the owner could not be located, it was adopted by a WASART member and named Cliff.





## Honey in the Mud

As spring Fundamentals Training was wrapping up, WASART received a call about a horse in a creek in Everett. Part of the training involved the technical rescue team giving a demo on the bipod/tripod and various rope systems, so many of the technical responders were on site at the training, dressed, and ready to go. The team made their way to Everett, about 90 minutes away. A call out for other members up to date on their credentials was made because horse rescues of this sort often require many hands on the ropes.

The team arrived on scene with an hour of daylight remaining and were directed to the creek, which ran through a cow pasture that fortunately was accessible to the equipment van. The horse, a Thoroughbred named Honey, lay in a slack water creek just to the side of a bridge, forelegs extended out from a number of attempts at self-rescue. She shivered from the stress.

The location's geography would make this a difficult rescue. The creek cut deep into the silt of the ground and the soft muck on the bottom of the creek made the situation dangerous.

There was a quick discussion about the different options and the team finally settled on placing one foot of the bipod on the bridge and one on the rescue side of the bank. They would try to slip the supporting straps of the Becker sling under Honey and then lower the spreader bar to attach to the straps. After this they would lift her vertically, pivot the bipod to solid ground and lower her to solid ground.

One of the big dangers was the deep muck at the bottom of the creek and the muddy water. No rescuer could enter the water with her. Although the water barely moved the unexpected flailing of the horse could suck a person under the animal and into the mud. One of our best horse handlers was on the team and would be attendant to the horse, meaning he'd work closest to her and try to keep her as calm as possible. He stood on the steep bank, talking to Honey as the rest of the team made preparations. To keep him safe, he put on a climbing harness with an attached a safety rope and had someone manage the rope so he wouldn't fall in.

Also on site was a veterinarian with a sedative in case Honey needed a bit of help to stay calm, and to act as an advisor.



The team worked on getting the support straps under Honey with a strope guide, a long flat piece of metal with an opening at the end to slip straps through. The guide slides under the horse, the straps are threaded through the opening, and then the guide is pulled back through with the strap following like thread on a needle. Honey's continued attempts to self-rescue made this difficult.

While this was going on, the rest of the team built the bipod and set up the rope systems that would manage the bipod angles, raise the horse, and stabilize the whole system.

Everything was ready to go just as dark descended.

When horses are stuck in mud or bogs, it is crucial to be very careful of the suction that will fight the raise and damage the horse's legs. Legs are meant to bear weight, not be pulled on. The muck was very water-heavy which made this less of a concern than in other rescues but it was still of concern.

Honey cleared out of the water fairly easily, and seemed calm. However, once in the air, she thrashed but the careful rigging kept her and the responders safe.

The bipod was pivoted to swing Honey onto the rescue side of the creek. Just before she touched down, she panicked and thrashed some more. As soon as she calmed a bit,

the attendant veterinarian slipped in and gave her a sedative, which helped nearly immediately.

As the attempt to lower her continued, the sedative kept her from noticing the ground right away, but as soon as she did, she stood and was able to bear weight on all four legs.

Honey was unhooked her from the sling and led away to be examined more thoroughly by the veterinarian.

We've heard Honey came away with a few scrapes and scratches but is doing well and being taken care of.

## Dog Over a Cliff

WASART received calls from two reporting parties that a dog had fallen over a cliff and help was needed to locate and retrieve the dog. The reporting parties were the owner and King County Search and Rescue dispatch. Each called separately about the same incident.

The Duty Officer returned the call to the reporting parties and was advised Seattle Mountain Rescue had also been activated. The owner reported that her two year old Chocolate Lab Frankie had gone over a cliff while hiking along the trail at Denny Creek, reportedly 2.5 miles up the trail. As of the time of the call, the dog had been heard by an unknown nearby party, tumbling down the cliff with a yelp at the end.

Frankie had been spotted by a passerby who advised the SMR members of its location. The subject was lying on large rocks that formed the bed of a creek low on water. Three SMR members were on-site with their Cascade litter with a wheel attachment. Frankie appeared injured with possible leg and hip fractures and would need to be packed out. The dog was alert and responsive.

All WASART responders met at the trailhead. After first checking with SMR by radio, packaging equipment and first aid supplies were carried up the trail when the WASART team departed from the trailhead. One team member remained at trailhead to handle communications and base support. A second WASART responder arrived shortly thereafter and assisted at base.

An additional SMR Responder departed the trailhead shortly after the WASART team had left and joined the them at the creek crossing, about a mile up the trail. They arrived at the scene after about an hour.

Frankie was carefully transferred onto the assembled and waiting litter. The injury was to the left hind area and the team attempted to rest the Frankie sternally and leaning on the right hip to alleviate pain, but she selfcorrected twice and the team allowed her to rest on the left hip.

All members of the party i.e., WASARTs, SMRs, owner & other emergent volunteers moved down the creek bed to join up with the Denny Creek/Melakwa Lake Trail. The litter was carried by hand part of the way as the roughness of the trail did not make the wheel an efficient means of transport. Another SMR responder joined the party early in the descent down the trail. A quarter of the way down, the team stopped and added



the wheel and a tagline to the litter. An SMR member called out safety concerns, rocks, step-downs, and other hazards the team on the litter needed to account for but could not see.

The team arrived safely back at the trailhead at about 2 ½ hours after setting out. Frankie was unpacked and very carefully transferred to the back of the owner's car. The owner stated she would be heading directly to the emergency vet in Shoreline, WA. Frankie remained alert and responsive. She continued to prefer lying on her left hip and licked at her left paw.

We later learned that Frankie required a 9-hour surgery, a steel plate in her left hip, pins in the right hip and 42 staples. She continues to recover and was able to keep her leg.



## In Honor Of

Lager – Bonita Towne

## Holstein Level

K Foundation  
Kelly Munro  
Maikara David Lyman  
KLeo Foundation  
Zoe Clelland  
Michaela Eaves  
Rogue Ales  
Boeing Employees Giving Program  
Denise Steinkerchner  
WA State Secretary of State  
Jane Millar

## Alpaca Level

Baxter International  
Nintendo  
Mary and Karl Mortenson  
Enumclaw Lions Club  
Enumclaw Forested Foothills  
Recreation Association  
Benevity  
Combined Federal Campaign  
Saul Pwanson

## Labrador Level

Anonymous (multiple)  
Bonnie Orban  
Suzanne Hannus  
Barbara Mayer  
Susan Benson  
Fay Forman  
Franki Shannon  
Kelleryn Novy  
Jenny Peters  
Tamara Paris  
T. Thompson  
Heather Paton  
Blunt Jackson  
Alison White  
Allstate Giving Program  
Anna Daggett  
Bill Daugaard

Carrie Lee Gagnon  
Charity Gift Certificates  
Connie Edwards  
Greg Slayden  
Jason King  
Jennifer Swift  
Jon Bennett  
Jon Mercer  
Julie Shipman  
Kate Tegeler  
King County Employees Giving  
Program  
Kroger Giving Program  
Lynn Bourton  
Lynne Davison  
Margaret McDowell  
Margaret Schwecke  
Nordstrom Employees Giving  
Program  
Paypal Giving Fund  
Renee Young  
Square  
United Way of King County  
WA State Military Employees  
Giving Program  
WA State Emergency Management  
Department Employees  
Paddywack Raffle  
Adrienne Pape  
Alexis Lanphere  
Alice Bloch  
Amazon Smile Foundation  
Amy Carey  
Andrew Niss  
Angela Summerfield  
Anne Hayhurst  
April Pfab  
Ashley Kauzlaric  
Barbara Helm  
Bob Whitmire  
Brenda Sestrap  
Bruce Milne  
Carol Benae  
Carol Melton  
Cathie Frizalone  
Dina Cooper  
Divya Krishnan  
Donna Myers  
Charmaine Adsero  
Christa Doran

*Did we get it wrong?*

*We value your contribution and it's our goal to make sure everyone is correctly represented. If we missed your name or misspelled it, please let us know at fundraising@washingtonsart.org and we'll issue a revision.*

Christina Jallings  
Corinna Harn  
Courtney Waite  
Courtney Crooks  
Deanna Moreau  
David Bradley  
Drusilla Arnold  
Elizabeth Garner  
Elizabeth Perrin  
Ether Ore  
Evergreen Golden Retrievers Club  
Felicity Turner  
Fred Meyer Giving Program  
Holly Shull Vogel  
Irene Murakami  
Jan Magnuson  
Jane Babione  
Jane Millar  
Jayna Gieber  
Jeana Ragghianti  
Jennifer Cook  
Jennifer Evans  
Jennifer Johnson

Jessica Parks  
Katherine Snoodyk  
Kelly Rice  
Ken Hasbargen  
Kimberly Brown  
Kula Foundation  
Laura Harrell  
Lea Smith  
LesGo Design  
Leslie A. Chertok  
Lisa Jo Freimark  
Lisa Vandermay  
Lynn Erckmann  
Maria D. Johnson  
Marilyn Armbruster  
Mary Keffer  
Matthew Fontaine  
LI and RW Maurer  
Network for Good  
Nicole Vifian  
Nintendo  
Patricia Murphy  
Paypal giving Fund

Phillipa Kohn  
Rachel Ramirez  
Rebecca Hoffman  
Robert Fox  
Sarah Jeglum  
Seattle Plastics  
Shannon Campbell  
Shirley Sonnichsen  
The Style Studio  
Tiffany Bodensteiner  
Triple L Farm  
Victoria Rohlfs  
YourCause  
Puyallup Dog Show Donations  
Sungard Paynet  
Semiahmoo Resort  
Seattle Dog Show  
Kitsap County American Kennel  
Club  
Petpalooza  
Robert Johnson  
Stephan Ramsay  
Daniel Powers

