



2017 WASHINGTON STATE ANIMAL RESPONSE TEAM ANNUAL REPORT



A Decade of Helping Animals and Their Owners in Emergencies

I'm happy to say that 2017 was not only our 10th anniversary, but another year of growth and collaboration for us. As I look back through the year, I see more and more mention of WASART working effectively with other groups and organizations in our rescues. Whether it was with King, Pierce and Snohomish County Search and Rescue Groups, veterinarians, swift water with Summit to Sound, or any number of local Fire Departments and Law Enforcement agencies, we were able to communicate effectively, work together as a team and accomplish great things. We take great pride not only in our rescue skills, but also our reputation for working together on a common goal. There are many instances in the rescue world where having experts in different fields is really what's needed.

Some of the new challenges we faced included a helicopter extraction, a horse needing help to cross a swiftly moving river, and a horse with its rider trapped underneath. In each case, WASART volunteers were able to adapt and utilize the extensive

training they've each gone through. In addition to the new challenges, we also faced many callouts on things like heat exhaustion, livestock needing assistance to stand, dogs in ravines, etc. The types of requests that we see each and every year, and will continue to respond to.

Great news for us too - we were able to add to our fleet and purchase a much-needed second truck to tow our trailers. This new truck enables us to respond more quickly to callouts from almost anywhere in Western WA.

I'm very proud to say too, that several WASART volunteers deployed again with the ASPCA after the hurricanes in the Virgin Islands, Texas and Florida. Our reputation for having outstanding, well-trained, hardworking, knowledgeable volunteers is spreading even outside of Washington State.

As we celebrated our 10th anniversary, it was amazing to look back and see how far WASART has come! Even though we continue to learn, grow and evolve, we still always hold true to helping animals and their owners in emergencies.

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

Helping Animals and Their Owners in 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.



39
Deployments



162
Members



57,849
Miles traveled



10,338
In-state hours

\$310,554
Volunteer value*



*At the Washington Volunteer Hourly Rate of \$30.04, as provided by 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 2017.

2017 Highlights

- First rescue involving a helicopter
- New (to us) truck to haul trailers and responders
- Second Becker tripod/bipod to complete a second set of rescue equipment stationed in Snohomish county for faster responses.



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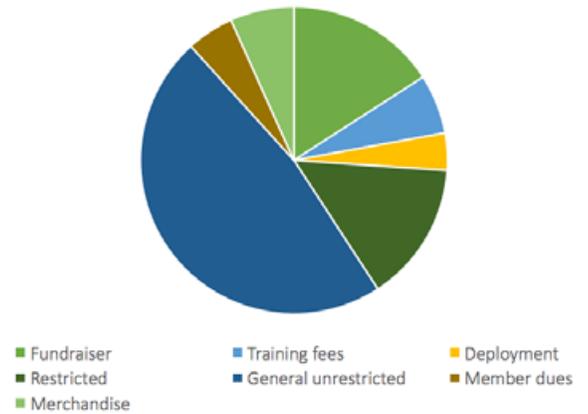
Balance

Assets & Liabilities	2017	2016
Total Assets	\$227,079	\$218,207
Total Liabilities	\$(992)	\$0
Net Assets	\$226,087	\$218,207

Income

Fundraising and Income	Amount	Percent
Raise the Hoof Fundraiser	\$14,844.	16%
Training fees	\$5,846.	6%
Deployment	\$3,659.	4%
Restricted	\$13,765.	15%
Unrestricted/general	\$44,371.	47%
Member dues	\$4,656.	5%
Promotions & merchandise	\$6,279.	7%
Total	\$93,420	100%

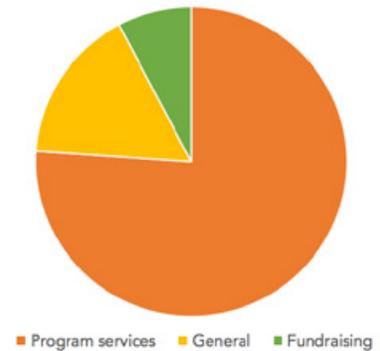
Fundraising and Income Ratio



Expenses

Summary of Expenses	Amount	Percent
Program service expenses	\$61,611	76%
Management & general expenses	\$13,133	16%
Fundraising expenses	\$6,235	8%
Total	\$80,979	100%

Program to Admin Ratio



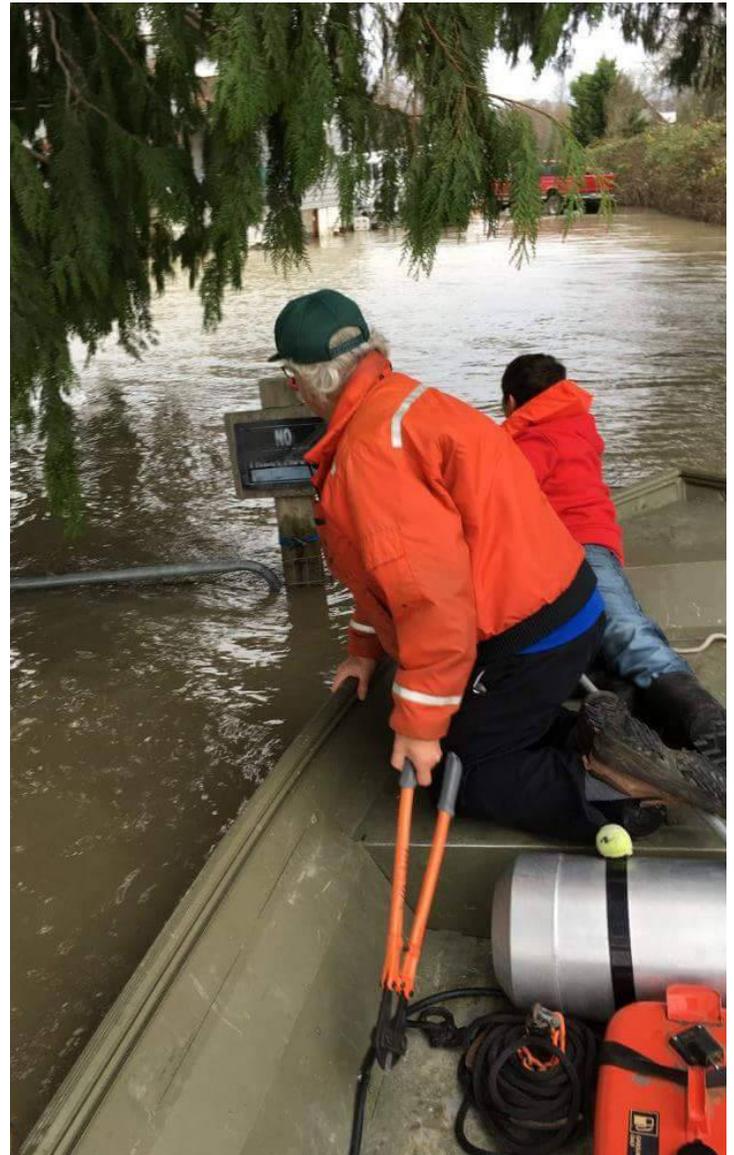


Education

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 2017; we were represented at Petpalooza in Auburn, Poochpalooza in Marysville, the Goatalympics in Monroe, Mutt Strutt in Everett, Barkfest in Auburn, the BCBS Preparedness Fair in Mountlake Terrace.

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 a number of national deployments from the ASPCA. In 2017 WASART sent 9 of volunteers on 23 rotations to assist the ASPCA on 9 different deployments for a total of 5,424 hours including responses to Hurricane Maria and Irma. 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 2017 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.





2017 was a year full of down equines, dogs needing hoists and help, and one memorable horse over a river.

Buster

On March 25, 2017, we received a call from our answering service requesting assistance for a horse cast in a shed. We headed out to Orting, WA, in Pierce County after getting permission to deploy from the Pierce County officials.

We found Buster lying in an open shed, attended by concerned family. He'd been down for a couple of hours already and was unable to get up on his own due to a healing break to his pelvis.

Joining us on site was Buster's vet, Dr. Ashley Galen of Tacoma Equine Hospital. We'd recently met her at a WASART presentation during a hospital seminar, so she was familiar with our mission and capabilities.

Buster wasn't in immediate distress, and we were somewhat limited on responders. Rather than the divide-and-conquer scenario

we've used in the past, we set up the tripod and lift system before rigging Buster. Once that was in place, we pulled the straps for the sling under Buster so we could use them as handles to pull him on to the Rescue Glide. Before we had a chance to secure Buster to the Rescue Glide he attempted to get up, causing him to slide down a bit. We grabbed a wide strap from our rescue equipment van and put a forward assist on him so we could pull him back onto the glide.

We think the family deserves a big shout-out here. It was very helpful to have them lending some muscle as well as giving Buster a sense of familiarity while he lay in a vulnerable position with all the noises and strange people surrounding him. Additionally, Buster had an anxious herd mate nearby, a gray mare that one of the family members kept occupied and safely out of the way.

Dr. Galen gave Buster a light dose of sedation to help him out, and to keep us safer. The sedation would keep Buster from trying to stand while we strapped him to the glide. We were very careful of his injury. We also did not hobble or attempt to manipulate his feet. We had plenty of room to maneuver him without having to pull the legs in as is the usual procedure when strapping a large animal, horse, cow, etc., to the Rescue Glide.

Dr. Galen acted as our animal attendant, keeping Buster from

trying to get up by kneeling on his neck, as well as letting him know he wasn't alone. Once Buster was securely on the glide, all available people pulled him out from the shed to under the tripod where the team attached him to the lift bar and unstrapped him from the glide. Anyone not otherwise occupied jumped on the haul team.

Buster was raised to his feet. He hung for a small amount of time, as horses often do before they realize they aren't laying down anymore. We gradually released tension and

allowed more and more weight to settle on his feet. After a brief rest Buster began grazing, always a good sign from a horse.

Finally, we let him stand completely unaided. Dr. Galen was satisfied with his condition and we cautiously packed up, leaving the rigging and tripod for last in case Buster went down again.

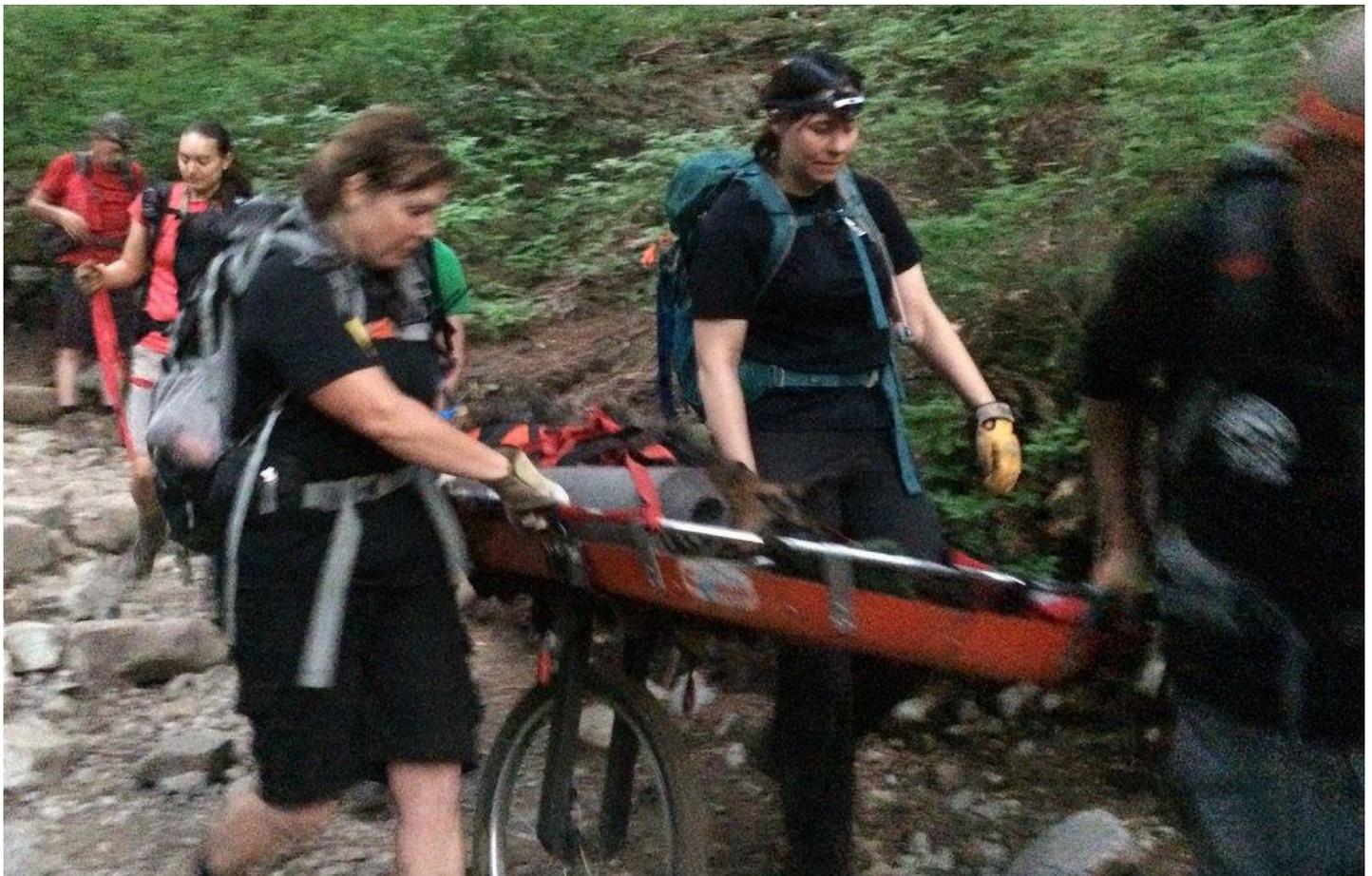
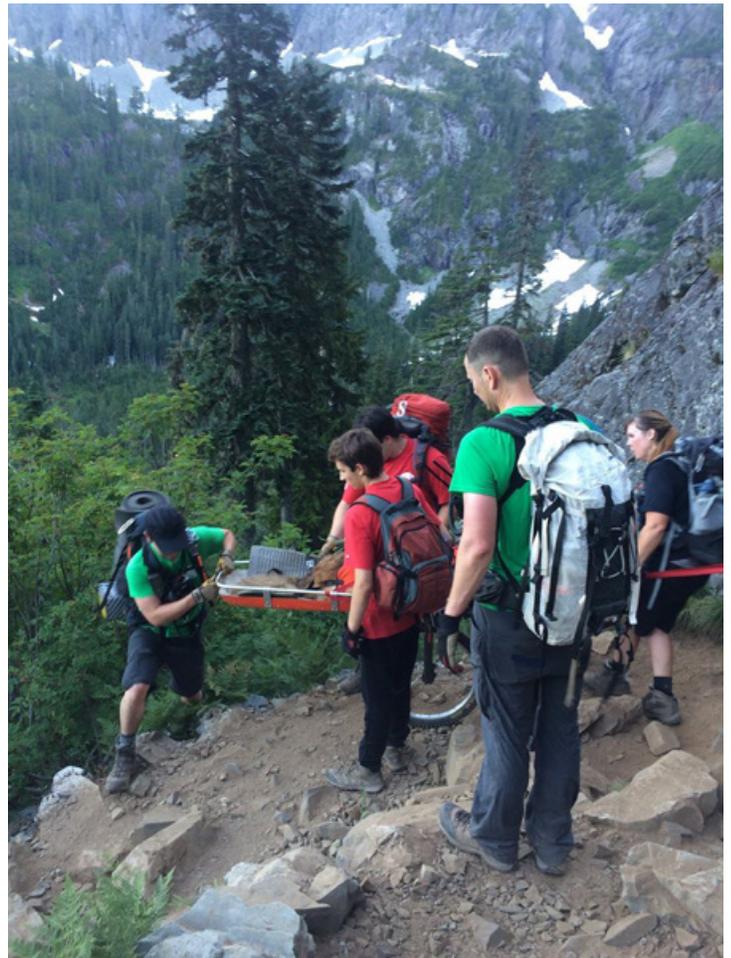
We headed home after a debrief and a short equipment sorting and inventory session, leaving Buster to rediscover his favorite patch of grass in his owners' back yard.



Hana

On July 22, 2017, we received a call for a dog in need of assistance near the top of Snow Lake Trail, along the I-90 corridor east of North Bend, WA in King County. We put out a call for our volunteers and requested the loan of a litter wheel from King County Explorer Search and Rescue (ESAR), since the trail is steep and WASART did not have one. (With a generous donation from a WASART volunteer, we now have our own wheel.–Editor). King County Search and Rescue's Rapid Alpine Deployment team (RAD) brought the equipment to the trailhead and began packing it up the approximately four miles to the location of the dog while other responders drove up to the trailhead.

As the responders arrived at trailhead, we received another call for a horse stuck in a ditch in Auburn, WA, about 60 miles away. The WASART responders split into two teams. The dog team grabbed some gear from the rescue equipment van while the horse team departed for Auburn. The trail winds uphill almost the entire three miles of the route and increases in steepness and rockiness as it goes up. Along the way, hikers we passed mentioned seeing the dog, who rested with her head on a jacket. We met the RAD team at the



dog's location where they had the litter already assembled. Hana, a German Shepherd, waited with her owner at her side.

We checked her over and took her temperature. Hikers with spare water had helped cool her by pouring water on her as they passed on the way down. The RAD team had deployed ice packs to help cool her, and someone had donated a frozen Capri Sun packet. Everyone had done a good job of cooling her. Her temperature was acceptable and she was able to keep water down.

We fitted her with a harness and a muzzle and transferred her onto the litter. Strapped securely in the litter, now equipped with the borrowed wheel, she was ready to be carried out. The last of our immediate responders arrived at this point, including a responder from Pierce County Explorer Search and Rescue (PCESAR). He had been hiking with a WASART member and requested to permission from Pierce County to help.

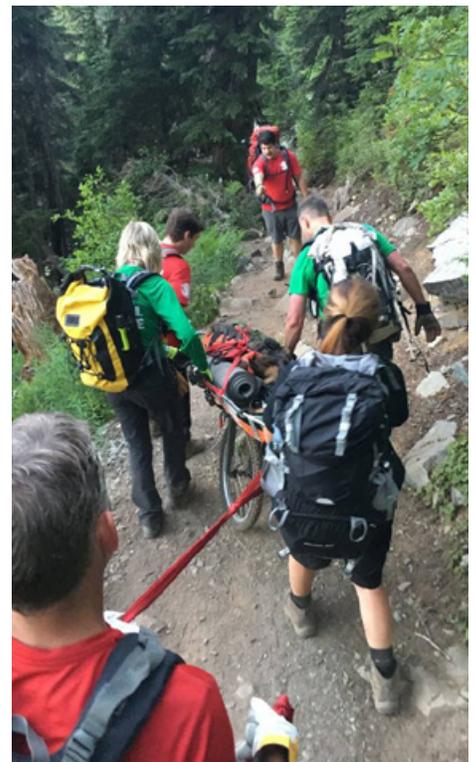
With the last of the team assembled, and the dog ready to go, we headed down the rocky path. Managing a litter down a rocky path with switchbacks can be difficult. The wheel for the litter helps to carry the weight. A person at the head and one at the rear help stabilize it. Another person behind holds a tagline to act as a backup brake, and one more farther in front of the litter the calls out rocks, roots, notches, and other hazards of the trail. When a trail got too rough to roll, the litter was handed down to waiting responders. Frequent stops were called to swap out responders as arms and eyes get tired. ESAR command (King County SAR Deputy Pete Linde) kindly sent more responders up to help, so we had fresh help down the trail, including one individual from Seattle Mountain Rescue (SMR).

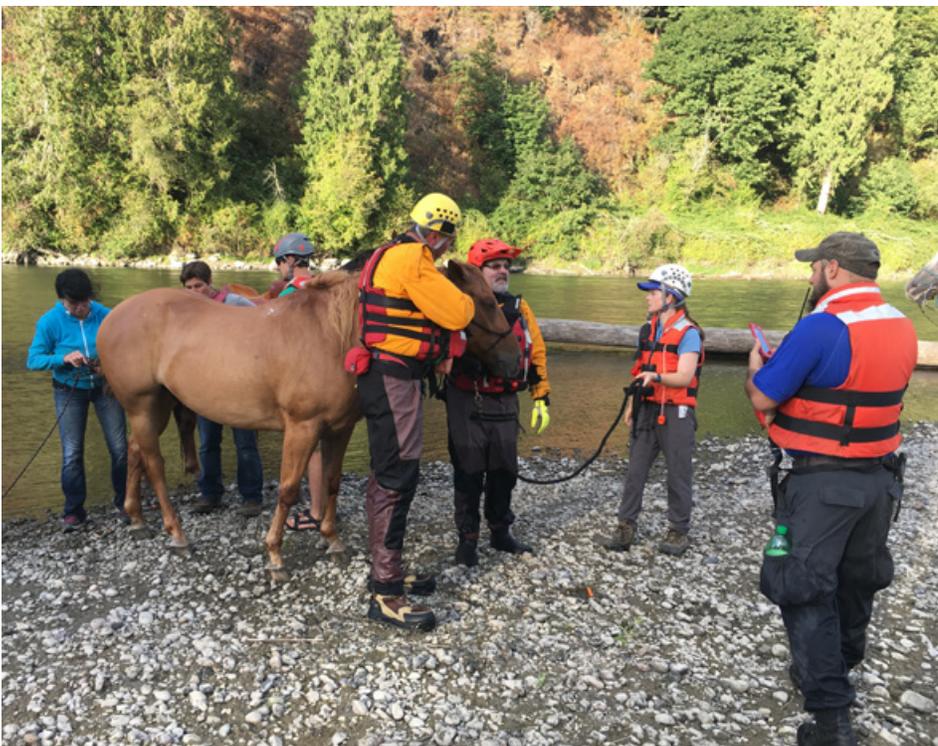
Hana rode quietly in the litter, watching the activity around her and accepting help. We got the litter safely down and met up with the rest of Hana's family. Transferring her into their waiting car, her owners took her immediately to an emergency veterinarian. We're told she spent several nights there before being discharged to her people. A big thanks to our friends at King County Search and Rescue and Pierce County Search and Rescue for all your help and willingness to share.

Twix

Mondays can be difficult days on which to assemble a full team for a deployment but Monday, September 11, 2017, proved to be the exception to the rule. Late on that day, we received a call for assistance a horse, Twix, who had spooked and ended up on the far bank of the Snohomish River in Snohomish County. He was safe but hemmed in by geography and too afraid of the water to swim back on his own. We decided the horse was safe enough and had grass and water available. Attempting a rescue in the dark can introduce unnecessary risks. Making plans and proceeding in the morning would be safer for the horse as well as the responders.

That evening we considered and rejected several plans, concluding that the best course was to swim the horse back across the river. Though the river is low, any water rescue can be dangerous. WASART members are not currently trained for swift water rescues but, fortunately, we have friends at Summit to Sound Search and Rescue in Whatcom County who are. We've worked with them a few times and successfully completed a swift water rescue





with them not too long ago (see last year's annual report). Additionally, some of their swift water technicians are also horse people. Snohomish County's Sheriff was kind enough to put in an official request for Summit to Sound and four responders came down that afternoon with a boat and equipment in tow.

The next day, we met them at the river, about half a mile upstream from the horse. Joining us was a local veterinarian and some friends who also brought boats. We donned Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Personal Flotation Devices (PFD), then headed down the river. Though most of the river

was low enough to walk through, there was a channel right in front of the horse that was about ten feet wide and seven feet deep. This was the main feature we needed to get the horse across to get him to safety. One of our best horse handlers, JC, trudded through the water and across the river and rigged the horse. He used a Wideman Configuration to distribute weight and not injure the horse and which would keep Twix securely harnessed as he was pulled across.

We attached a water rescue rope to the rigging. The water rescue rope is key here because it's designed to float and have less drag in the water, where our usual rescue ropes could have bogged down and become a hazard. The veterinarian put an inner tube around the horse's neck to give a little extra flotation to the head and also a bit of sedation to help calm the horse. The rest of the responders took their places on the other end of the rope to pull the horse into the water and through the deeper part. He was able to walk the rest of the way over in the shallow water. Nearby, his owner, her friend, and Twix's pasture mates were on hand to call him over and encourage him.

Rigging lead Joe called the pull and we steadily and firmly pulled Twix off his spot by the side of the river, into the water, and then across the river. The solution worked well, and his nose never went under, which could have caused medical issues.

We're grateful to Summit to Sound for lending us their swift water experts. They are responsible for the rescue going safely and smoothly. We're also very appreciative of the efforts of the veterinarian and the local folks who provided boats in case they were needed.

In Memory of

Kristen Thompson– Desert Village Initiative, Murphy, Kelly
Winston – Hoetmer, KarenJean
Karen Kratz – Hughes, Eric
Paiute – Kerrigan, Ronald
Teddy – Wright, Roxanne

In Honor of
Elena Reiss – Emmons, Darren
Shawndra Michell –Huntley, Debra

On Behalf of
Dillon Jackson and Misha Halvarsson –Kelly, Ann

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