



Julie Austin
ANY PET PHOTOGRAPHY
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WASHINGTON STATE ANIMAL RESPONSE TEAM 2018 ANNUAL REPORT



Strengthening and Expanding Our Tradition of Helping

This year WASART's expertise was needed again and again throughout 2018, and every time we went out with the intention of making it a successful and happy ending. Far more often than not, we succeeded in that. Part of helping animals and their owners in emergencies sometimes involves endings that are not always happy. Every time our teams deploy, they are aware that it may not be the successful, happy closure we practice and train for. Sometimes an animal is too injured or too old to survive the circumstances. Knowing this is a possibility, WASART responders continue to train, practice and hone their skills month after month, year after year to ensure the very

best outcome possible and to maximize the chance an animal has of leaving its situation to get back to its family. I truly believe that WASART is one of the best-trained and skilled rescue groups there is. I believe too, that that is one reason we continue to build strong working relationships with law enforcement, fire districts, search and rescue groups and other animal rescue organizations. This year we continued to educate and help make it easier for people to prevent injuries (dogs over cliffs, burned paws, etc.). We also continued our tradition of helping other areas shelter or recover from emergencies. I'm proud to say that WASART made a sizeable donation of hay to Montana Reservations that were in need of feeding animals. We also responded to calls for help during the California wildfires.

This year we began to explore adding water rescue to our responses, which is a needed service in Western Washington. It is also very expensive and requires an extensive and thorough training regimen, which means we will complete our due diligence before making any decision or investment. As we completed our 11th year of service to our communities, I know we can be proud of our accomplishments, proud of the help we provided and proud of the positive difference we are making.

In 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





Values

Respect

Credibility

Honesty

Accessibility

Ethics

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.

2018 At a Glance



41
Deployments



158
Members



57,153
Miles traveled



12,709
In-state hours

\$387,116
Volunteer value*



*At the Washington Volunteer Hourly Rate of \$30.46, as provided by www.independentsector.org, the total value of hours committed comes to \$487,269, including additional hours volunteered at national deployments and for administrative and committee duties. WASART members participated in 8 separate ASPCA deployments with 19 rotations, and 2 rotations with AHA in 2018.



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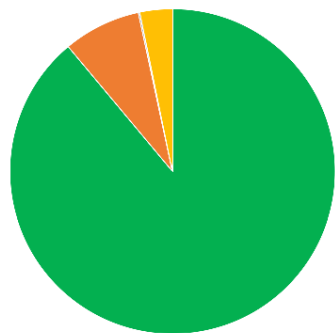
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Advising Specialist

Balance

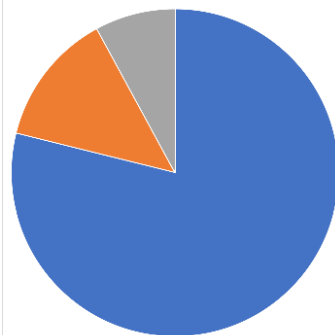
Assets & Liabilities	2018	2017
Total Assets	\$234,989	\$227,079
Total Liabilities	\$0	\$(992)
Net Assets	\$234,989	\$226,087

Income



Fundraising and Income	Amount	Percent
Contributions, gifts, and grants	\$81,572.	88.9%
Training fees and program revenue	\$7,071.	7.7%
Investment income	\$140.	0.2%
Promotions & merchandise	\$2,948.	3.2%
Total	\$91,731	100%

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%



Year in Review

Education

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, many other types of trainings were held. This year, Base and Operations training were offered on two separate dates. 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 2018; we were represented at Petpalooza in Auburn, Poochapalooza in Marysville, the Goatalympics in Monroe, Mutt Strutt in Everett, Barkfest in Auburn, and the Premera BCBS Preparedness Fair.

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, all the rescue photos in this report come from emergency responses we've completed this year, which was at an all-time high.

National Deployment

WASART members are called upon for a number of national deployments from the ASPCA and AHA. In 2017 WASART sent 19 of volunteers on 10 deployments 23 rotations to assist the ASPCA on 9 different deployments for a total of 3,286 hours. Four of our members each completed more than 2 rotations of a week per rotation. 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 2018 we coordinated with members of King County Search and Rescue, Seattle Mountain

Rescue, Regional Animal Services of King County, volunteers from Seattle Fire Department, King County Explorer Search and Rescue, Tacoma Mountain Rescue, Snohomish County Volunteer Search and Rescue, various law enforcement agencies and local veterinarians, and, last but not least, Summit to Sound Search & Rescue. We greatly value the relationships we have built with these fine organizations and look forward to growing these partnerships in the future.



2018 Response Highlights



2018 was a year full of horses and dogs, a very tiny bull, and though they would never admit it, a handful of cats.

Quinn

We don't generally post about stories that involve cruelty due to legal concerns. For a few reasons, we try to minimize any influence and information from our end in case an owner ends up in court. Often times a case that would end in court is a neglect case.

Last winter we got a call for a horse that had been surrendered to a rescue and taken to a local vet. The horse was in very poor shape, thin and malnourished. She had a body score of 1, for those of you familiar with that rating system. Within a few hours of being at the

vet's farm, she lay down in the stall and couldn't stand back up.

We went out to Buckley, WA and met Quinn, a young mare. We were careful as we tugged her light body onto the glide. She was so thin, bones could catch on the sturdy plastic sheet we use to move horses and other large animals. We secured her lightly, without the usual pressure and number of straps we'd use on a robust horse. She didn't have the energy to struggle. We pulled her into the arena nearby, where we had the tripod set up. Quinn's vet was on hand to assist and observe as we pulled her to her feet. She had a

sweet disposition, looking around curiously like Anakin had done during another neglect response.

Quinn was unable to stand long on her own but she didn't seem ready to give up and Quinn's vet felt she was alert enough to have a chance at survival. Quinn would stand and then rest against the harness for small periods of time.

We made the decision to allow Quinn to remain in the harness overnight though we made certain she had plenty of chance to stand as well. The harness was loose enough to act as a place to rest only. We coached the vet on some issues that could be a dangerous such as tipping, should Quinn bolt, which we all felt was unlikely, or

have suspension trauma should she not be able to hold her weight at all. The vet and her staff were shown the quick release and how to lower the harness more slowly. She had the number of the responders closest to her, who were only minutes away. We wrapped the legs of the tripod with orange construction fencing to provide a





visual barrier to discourage Quinn from moving.

The vet was following a protocol to minimize the risk of refeeding syndrome, which is a potentially fatal condition animals and people can get when they've starved and then receive food again, and would be with Quinn overnight.

Quinn did well that night. She received a lot of attention and the amounts of food the protocol would allow. The vet removed the harness in the morning and Quinn walked a little bit. Then we got a call that she was laying down in the arena again and could not get back up. We went back to the clinic, moved her back to the tripod with the glide, and set her up again. The next day Quinn was able to stand on her own. We took the tripod down, packed up everything else, and went home.

Three days later we got another call to assist Quinn.

We went to the clinic, and helped load her into a trailer to go to Pilchuck Veterinary Hospital, which has a better set up for long-term care. As we were packaging Quinn, she lay her head on the lap of one of the responders. She closed her eyes and just rested while we took care of her. We pulled her into the trailer with the use of a livestock panel as a ramp. We propped her up against hay bales so she'd ride in sternal recumbancy in the trailer, rather than laying on her side, which allows the horse the use of only one lung.

We gave her some last strokes and wished her well.



Update

About nine months after the Quinn callouts, we received a current, happier photo of Quinn, above. She's doing well at Emerald City Pet Rescue where she lives as a sanctuary horse.

Cheyenne

We received a call for a dog down a steep slope in Arlington, WA. Cheyenne, a Husky, was 35-40 feet down and couldn't make it back up on her own.

We sent a call out to qualified members and had about 9 responders on the way shortly after.

A couple of the technical team arrived just before it started to get dark, which made assessing the situation easier and the rescue safer since the team could make better judgments about how to proceed. They could see the dog, who was stationary, alert, and did not seem hurt.

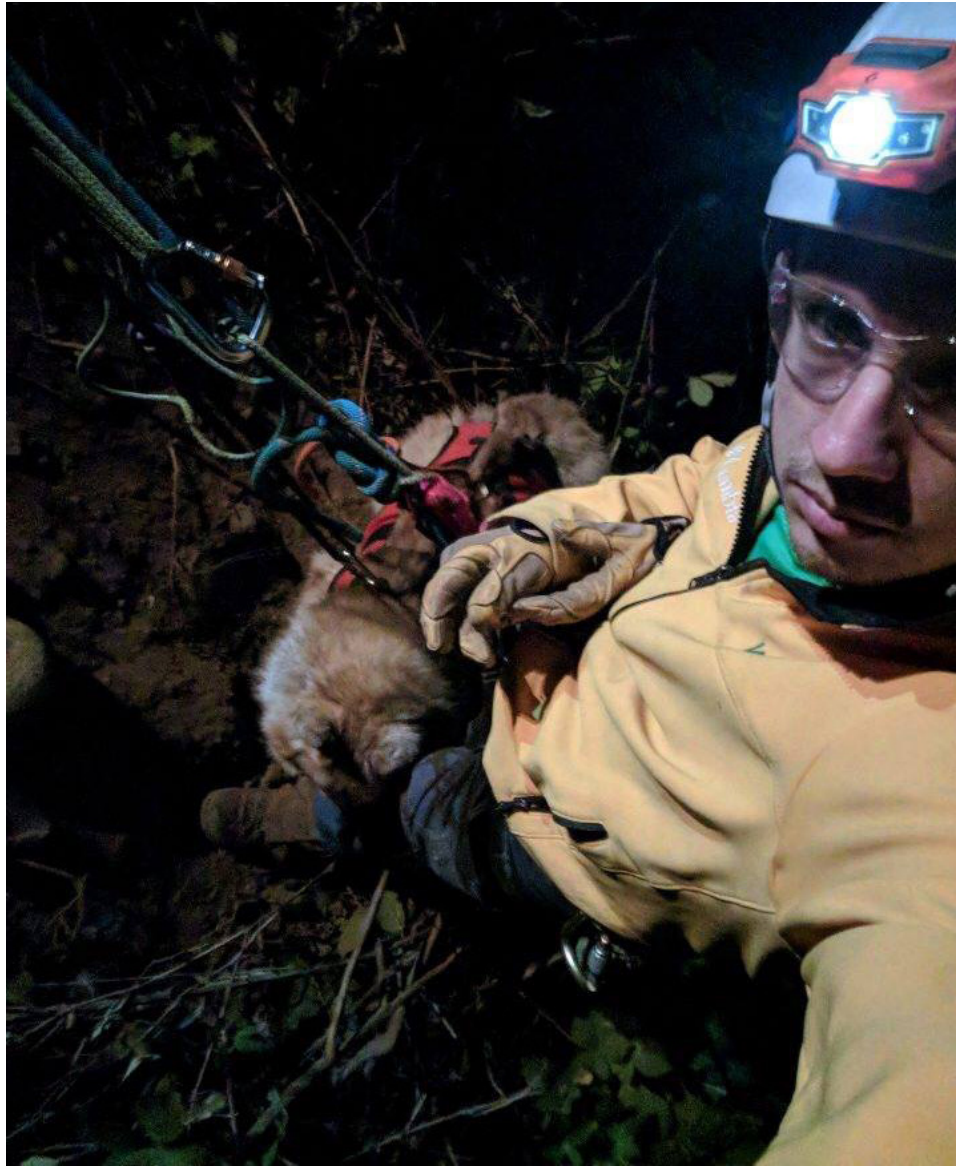
The equipment van arrived fairly quickly as well, allowing the technical team to begin rigging ropes and clearing the blackberries in the way of getting to the dog and bringing her back up.

The attendant, the person who descends to the animal to rig it and raise it back up, was Valon M. for this rescue. Assisting was Michael C.

Once everything was set, Valon began to descend to the dog, continuing to clear brush. Michael rappelled down shortly after to help cut back the canes, then ascended again using prusiks,

At the dog, Valon fitted her with a harness we have for these occasions. After everyone was ready, the raise team brought Valon and Cheyenne back up.

Cheyenne seemed thirsty but otherwise unhurt. After that, the team debriefed, packed up, and headed home.







Nash

We arrived on scene at Discovery Park in Seattle near the tip of the location, and walked up the very short trail where Nash, a one year old Lab-Mastiff cross was down a cliff of about 25 feet. He ran along a path at the bottom of the drop-off and barked occasionally so we can definitely say he was conscious and alert. He appeared unharmed, although unhappy about being separated from his people, who waited on the trail above.

Much of the technical team arrived before the equipment, so they sized up the situation. They had some equipment with them and they set up safety lines and attached them to harnesses so they could safely approach the edge and look over.

Once the equipment arrived on site, responders ferried up ropes, harnesses, pulleys, and all the other

hardware we need to accomplish a rescue.

The team decided on a rappel. Since the distance was short, the litter, which we normally use to put a dog in to move them up a cliff face or down a trail, stayed in the equipment. Instead, we'd fit Nash with a lift harness or make one out of some webbing (kind of a flat rope) we had with us.

The way a rescue like this works is one or two people go over the edge on ropes.

The person retrieving the dog for this response was Dr. Dahl, a long-time member of the technical team. Above, a team works to manage the ropes and the situation in general. For this we had five or six other people taking care of ropes and safety and yet more waiting to assist pulling Dr. Dahl up and Nash up. Dr. Dahl rappelled safely to Nash, who wasn't immediately sure about his new visitor. Dr. Dahl built a

rapport with him pretty quickly and rigged an emergency lift harness out of the webbing he had with him. While that was going on, the team above was readying the rope setup from a lower system to a lift. The team finished this about the time Dr. Dahl called that he was ready with Nash.

We were lucky to have had a generous number of haulers, including four members for whom this was their first response after completing training.

The lift went well and soon Dr. Dahl and Nash scabbled over the crumbling edge of the drop-off just as it was getting dark. Nash, tired from his ordeal wanted to lay down immediately but saw his people on the trail and made his way over to them as soon as he was released from the harness and attached to a leash.



Donors

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@wasart.org and we'll issue a revision.

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