

Washington State Animal Response Team

"Helping Animals and their Owners in Disasters"



WASART NEWS

From the President

When drafting the first newsletter of each year, my mind flies back to January, 2007 when the concept of starting a nonprofit organization in Washington to help avert a Hurricane Katrina-type animal-related catastrophe was formed. When the idea was raised at a meeting of the Enumclaw Forested Foothills Recreation Association (EFFRA) in that month, **Greta Cook** (former WASART VP and current Board member) raised her hand and said "I'll help." Greta and I had our first meeting around my dining room table on February 4, 2007 and started exchanging ideas on the 'look' of our new organization. **Lanette Knapp** (current Chair, Hospitality Committee) joined us in April, **Mary Ann Bentley** (current Chair, Promotions Committee) joined in May, and **Lynn Henke** (current Credentials Manager) was our final recruit in 2007, joining us in September.

From this nucleus of a (very) small number of hard-working, determined believers in the vision of the unnamed organization, WASART has grown to be a respected, state wide organization with trained members in nearly every county.

I know I do not express it enough and I know I sometimes snip and snarl like a junkyard dog, but I am proud to be part of such a wonderful and helpful organization. I am also very grateful for the endeavors of all our members who contribute so many hours to building WASART into a bigger, stronger, and more effective organization. But I am especially grateful for those few members who sat around my dining room table in 2007 for many, many meetings and helped shape and guide WASART from nothing more than an idea. But for them, WASART would probably not be where it is today.

Gretchen McCallum
President

January 2011
National 'Get Organized'
Month



Mission Statement

To help animals and their owners through disaster preparedness, education, and emergency response.

WASART's 2011 Training Schedule

All WASART training opportunities are now open to the general public (but you have to be a WASART member to be eligible to deploy)! Adults only, please.

February 12, 2011, Core, Snoqualmie Fire Department, Snoqualmie, WA;

February 13, 2011, Transport, Cumberland Fire Station and Enumclaw Expo Center, Enumclaw, WA;

March 12-13, 2011, Sheltering, Shoreline Fire Department, Shoreline, WA;

May 14-15, 2011, Field Response, Sunset Lake Camp, Wilkeson, WA.

Pre-registration and pre-payment is required. For more information, visit the Calendar on the WASART website or email training@washingtonsart.org.

WASART NEWS is a publication of the Washington State Animal Response Team (WASART) published on or about the 15th of each month. WASART is an all volunteer, 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. The mailing address is: WASART, P.O. Box 21, Enumclaw, WA 98022, e-mail is animalresponseteam@gmail.com and website is: washingtonsart.org.

2010 In Review

The year 2010 was the busiest yet in WASART's brief history. Our deployments and responses increased 100% from 2009 and the number of volunteers trained increased just as dramatically. We participated in retrieving dogs off cliffs and hillsides, pulling horses from bogs, swamps, and up steep terrain, transported abandoned horses to foster homes, and responded to enquiries about how best to deal with cows in rivers, deer in the road, dogs in culverts, and adventurous sheep loose from their pastures.

By the numbers in 2010		
	Number	Increase from 2009
Deployments	18	100%
Volunteers' hours (meetings, presentations, appearances at Emergency Fairs, trainings, etc.)	7,700	45%
Volunteers' mileage	58,000	66%
Volunteers trained	150	90%
Community outreach appearances or presentations		19
Technical Large Animal Rescue (TLAR) trained members		54
Field Response trained members		68
Shelter trained members		80
Amateur radio licensed members		22
CERT trained members		19
Rope Rescue Team members		21
Current and former Search & Rescue (SAR) trained members		18
Members with advanced FEMA certification in Incident Command System courses, ICS 300 and/or ICS 400		10
Team Leaders and Operations Leaders		15
Vets/vet techs/vet assistant members		11
Members obtaining vet/vet tech training		6

**Thanks for caring about the animals
and supporting WASART!**

Donation

Through the generosity of Mr. Darrel E. Nelson, the Instructional Lab Supervisor at the Washington State University, Dept. of Veterinary & Comparative Anatomy in Pullman, WA, WASART is now the proud owner of 'Stan', a seven foot, full-sized model of a quarter-horse. Stan will join 'Titan', our loaned black and white paint model horse, in helping train our members to rig a large animal for rescue.



'Stan' was so named by WSU vet students because, according to Darrel Nelson, all he did was 'stand' around. Both Stan and Titan are very well behaved and require little upkeep.

Orientation—January 8, 2011

Despite the inevitable technological glitches, the Annual Orientation on January 8th was again a great success with the majority of the attendees joining WASART following the presentation. We have a bumper crop of new member ready to start the Core segment of WASART's training program on February 12th at the Snoqualmie Fire Department followed by Transport at the Enumclaw Expo Center on February 13th.



But all is not lost for those folk who wanted to attend the Orientation and couldn't. It's still not too late to sign up for the upcoming trainings in February, Sheltering on March 12-13, and/or or Field Response on May 14-15th. For more information, contact training@washingtonsart.org. To register, contact treasurer@washingtonsart.org or visit the WASART website at www.washingtonsart.org.

Upcoming Events

Maple Valley Fire & Life Safety is again offering their eight week disaster preparedness course designed to create awareness, teach critical skills for assessing a disaster situation, and ensure participants gain the confidence they need to react productively and responsibly in a disaster. The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** training commences on **February 2nd** and ends with a disaster simulation on **March 31st**. All classes are from 6:00 p.m.—9:30 p.m. There are no pre-requisites; a \$35.00 class fee is due prior to start of class. For more information, contact Janine Johnson, Public Information Officer, at 425-433-2116 or visit www.maplevalleyfire.org.



On **February 26-27, 2011**, the American Humane Association will again offer their two-day **Disaster Sheltering for Companion Animals** course at The Noah Center, 31300 Brandstrom Rd, Stanwood, WA 98292. Cost is \$135.00 (\$115.00 for members). For more information, email aestraining@americahumane.org, call 303-925-9461, or download an application from the WASART Calendar. This course is approved as a substitute for WASART's Sheltering Course on March 12-13, 2011.

WASART's General Meetings are currently held each quarter on the **2nd Wednesday of each quarter** at 7:00 p.m. at the **Key Bank, 1212 Cole Street, Enumclaw, WA 98022**. In 2011, those meetings will be on **March 9th, June 8th (and Graduation), September 14th, and December 14th (Graduation)**. The first hour of the meeting is for WASART business with the second hour for mini-training sessions. Everyone is welcome.