

Washington State Animal Response Team

"Helping Animals and their Owners in Disasters"



WASART NEWS

From the President

The recent spate of earthquakes and natural disasters that have occurred recently around the globe should remind us that the Pacific Northwest cannot afford to become complacent just because the region has been spared the devastation of a major catastrophe. It is therefore appropriate that with April designated as National Disaster Preparedness Month, we turn our attention to preparing our plans, or reviewing our already existing plans, for a disaster. First and foremost, we should plan for ourselves and our families, then our pets and livestock, and then outward for our communities. The Washington State Emergency Management Department provides some excellent information on disaster preparedness. Their website is www.emd.wa.gov/preparedness/prep_infocus.shtml#PrepMth. A good source for informative articles on disaster planning for pets, horses and livestock is WASART's website under the 'Documents' tab. Finally, a great program called CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) is offered by many local Fire Departments. Besides training volunteers to respond to emergencies and incidents within their communities, this free course now offers two segments on preparing for incidents involving animals.

Have a plan. Practice a plan. Be prepared!
Gretchen McCallum

April 2011 Disaster Prep. Month



Mission Statement

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

Japan Fundraiser

The WASART Board of Directors wishes to thank everyone who so generously donated to WASART's fundraiser to send a trained team to Japan to assist with animal rescues and sheltering. In particular, mention must be made of WASART member **Kate Tegler's** very successful "Mac 'n Cheese" dinner party, whose attendees' donations went a long way towards helping our animal friends and their owners in this terrible time. Rather than send a WASART team to Japan, the Board decided to donate the funds raised to World Vets, another nonprofit organization which had swiftly responded to the disaster by shipping pallets of veterinary medical supplies and equipment. Since April, World Vets has placed some of their 3500 volunteer vets from around the world on the ground in Japan to work with local Japanese animal advocacy and rescue groups to provide veterinary attention to the many displaced, homeless, and abandoned animals in the stricken areas. World Vets still needs donations to continue their work in Japan and donations can be made on their website at www.worldvets.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 info@washingtonsart.org and website is: washingtonsart.org.

WASART Training Updates

Don't forget that the registration deadline for **Field Response** training is **May 4th**. This course is scheduled for **May 14-15, 2011**, at Sunset Lake Camp, Wilkeson. The registration form is on the WASART website. More information about the training, which is open to WASART members and the general public (adults only, please), can be obtained from **Bill Daugaard**, WASART's Training Director, at training@washingtonsart.org.



The **Sheltering** training, previously scheduled for March 12-13, 2011, has been postponed to **July 23-24, 2011**, so please save the date! When the Training Committee finalizes the location, it will be posted on the WASART Calendar. This training is also open to the general public and involves classroom instruction as well as hands-on training with live goats, llamas, horses, cattle and companion animals. The Training Director can be contacted at the aforementioned email address for more information.

Almost-Deployments & Transports

Since the last newsletter in March, WASART's 24/7 designated phone number of 425-681-5498 has been ringing off the hook—well, almost off the hook. In seven days, requests for assistance were received from frantic horse owners in Island and Skagit Counties, and from the local Fire Department in Grays Harbor County. While the incidents were resolved before WASART Field Response teams deployed, it was gratifying to see that WASART's name and its capabilities are becoming more known throughout western Washington. Which is just the way WASART — and our animal friends and their owners — like it!



Then, one week later and on three consecutive days, three more calls were received from a local agency asking WASART's assistance in transporting some animals from one location to another. Again, WASART was happy to receive the request and to have the resources available to respond to the appeals.

Non-WASART Trainings

On **April 1, 2011**, **Carol Satre** attended King County's **Disaster Mental Health** training in Seattle. The class focused on ways to maintain adaptive functioning as well as how to prevent and reduce the physical and behavioral health consequences of a disaster. The day was organized into three main sections: preparedness, response, and recovery after a disaster. The leaders led the attendees through helpful breathing techniques that could be used to lower one's anxiety after a stressful disaster. In addition, the attendees were reminded that as a response volunteer, the responder cannot help anything or anybody who will not help themselves. Carol reported that the class was very informative and recommended that any disaster responder take the class if it is offered again in the future.



WASART's General Meetings are currently held each quarter on the **2nd Wednesday of each quarter at 7:00 p.m.** The **June 9th** and **December 14th** meetings are currently scheduled to be held at the **Key Bank, 1212 Cole Street, Enumclaw, WA 98022 from 7:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.** However, the **September 14th** meeting will be held via teleconferencing and personally hosted at Kenmore, WA and DuPont, WA locations. More info to follow on the WASART website's Calendar. All are welcome.

Another WASART member, **Marie Schimke**, spent **April 3-8, 2011** in Anniston, Alabama attending the **AgERT-B course (Basic Agriculture Emergency Response Training)** offered by FEMA's Center for Disaster Preparedness (CDP). AgERT-B is only one of over 50 courses offered to emergency responders by the CDP. These courses focus on incident management,



mass casualty response, and emergency response to natural disasters or terrorists acts. The daily sessions were packed with class lectures, practical exercises, and team-building opportunities. This particular AgERT class was comprised of 40 emergency responders from all over the United States. After four days of training, they were divided into teams of eight to rehearse a biochemical deployment utilizing the ICS (Incident Command Structure) for a final exam. Marie's team consisted of four vets, two firefighters, and two



police officers with Marie acting as a 'clean tech' on animal blood and innards samples. The culmination of AgERT-B was graduation and certificates. Marie now joins the very select group of **Cathy Reaney**, **Pat Conaway**, and **Heidi Kuester** who also graduated from this program and who have utilized the training they received to teach awareness level courses to the WASART general membership.



FEMA

On **March 31, 2011-April 1, 2011**, two instructors from the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine flew to Seattle to teach a FEMA-sponsored 12-hour course entitled "**Use of a Standardized Credentialing Program for Management of an Animal Emergency and Response**". The course was hosted jointly by WASART and the King County Office of Emergency Management, Region 6, in a location selected by the City of Auburn. It was attended by over 35 emergency managers from several cities from within the State as well as representatives from FEMA, Public Health, Seattle Animal Shelter, Regional Animal Services of King County, vets, etc., From WASART, **Gretchen McCallum**, **Rory Kelleher**, **Bill Daugaard**, **Greta Cook**, **Lanette Knapp**, and **Jennifer Rollins** attended as well. All agreed the instruction and the course material provided important information on which to base future planning in emergencies or disasters in which animals are involved.

For the third year in a row, WASART members attended Tom Berryman's annual **Large Animal Extrication Class** in Rochester, WA. The class was held on **April 16, 2011** and among the 16 attendees were **JoDee Craigmile-Nilsen**, **Kathie Burr**, and **Amy Adams**. They join the approximately 25 other WASART members who have attended this class. The class is designed to teach emergency responders and others how to use rescue equipment and how to safely prepare for and approach large animal incidents. Besides practicing knot work, first on toy animals and then on live horses and cattle, the trainees observed a demonstration on how to properly contain and control animals inside a wrecked trailer, how to roll a horse caught upside down or over the edge of a steep terrain, and how to right a trailer flipped onto its side. As always, the class was informative and well taught. It is held every year in April and is always posted on the WASART calendar. Donations from this class are applied towards new/updated equipment for the West Thurston Regional Fire Authority, which co-sponsors this class with the Thurston Fire & Rescue Training Consortium.





Don't forget WASART has a Facebook page that is regularly updated and revised by our own **Sara Scott!** Visit it at www.facebook.com/wasart. And if you'd like to add an "I support WASART" button to your personal Facebook profile picture, view **JoDee Craigmile-Nilsen's** creation at <http://www.picbadges.com/wasart/1396853/>.

Upcoming Events

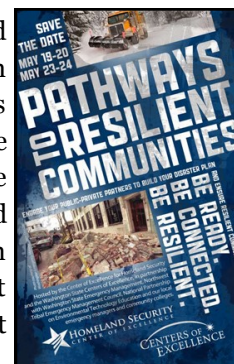


The **Partners in Emergency Preparedness Conference** is billed as the largest and most successful regional emergency preparedness conference in the Pacific Northwest. This year, the conference is scheduled for **April 26-27, 2011** and will be held at the Greater Tacoma Convention and Trade Center in downtown Tacoma, WA. For more information, visit the website at www.piepc.org or contact Dana Colwell at dana.colwell@wsu.edu.



On **May 18, 2011**, a region wide exercise called '**Shake, Rattle & Roll**' will be held in several counties and hosted by Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management. Volunteers are needed to play the role of a victim for hospital evacuations or as a citizen injured on the street after a large earthquake. To participate, you must be 16 years old or older, available all day, and willing to be moulaged, lifted and possibly transported to another location. Lunch, a commemorative t-shirt, a letter of community service hours and a special gift will be provided after the exercise's completion. To volunteer, contact Therese Quinn at Snohomish DEM at 425-388-5075. The flyer is posted on the WASART website's calendar.

'**Pathways to Resilient Communities**' is a two-day course hosted by Pierce College and Homeland Security's Center of Excellence in Pasco, WA and Lakewood, WA. The course is on building disaster plans that incorporate a public-private collaboration. The **Pasco, WA** course will be held at the Columbia Basin College on **May 19-20, 2011**. The class at Clover Park Technical College in **Lakewood, WA** is scheduled for **May 23-24, 2011**. There is no charge to participants and lunch and refreshments will be provided. Online registration begins April 1st at www.pierce.ctc.edu/dist/coe/event/. For more information contact Linda Crerar at lcrerar@pierce.ctc.edu or 253-912-3689.



Members of WASART's Technical Rescue Team are busy refining the demonstration of the Team's capabilities at the upcoming **2011 State SAR Conference** at the Cowlitz County Regional Event & Exposition center in Longview, WA on **May 20-22, 2011**. The demonstration, by **Bill Daugaard, Greta Cook, Rory Kelleher, Lauri McBeath-Davies** and **Fred Knight**, will show how to safely and effectively extract a large animal such as a horse or llama from a ditch or well then transport it in a recumbent position on a rescue glide to another location. WASART members and the general public are encouraged to participate in as many of the classes offered at the Conference as they wish. For more information on the Conference or to obtain a registration form, visit www.sarconwa.org. WASART members are encouraged to email training@washingtonsart.org if interested in attending the Conference.