

# Washington State Animal Response Team

*"Helping Animals and their Owners in Disasters"*



## WASART NEWS

### From the President

In several past issues of this newsletter, I've expressed my gratitude to the folks who have contributed so much towards making WASART such a strong and viable organization. I've mentioned folks who have volunteered the use of their animals for our training sessions and folks who have taken time out of their very busy schedules to be instructors at the same training sessions. Members who have been with us almost from the beginning continue to squeeze in WASART 'work' in-between time with their families, work, etc.

But I recently realized I'd forgotten to articulate my appreciation to another group of people who have been outstanding supporters of WASART. They are the folks at the Enumclaw Fire Department led by Chief Joe Clow. One of his volunteer firefighters, Capt. Darrin Pratt, was an early Advising Specialist on WASART's Board of Directors and continues to be available for advice or support when needed. Other firefighters have taught our members about basic fire safety. And Chief Clow has allowed WASART to use the facilities of a little used fire station to teach some of our classes, store both our trailers and all our supplies and equipment, and conduct our mock exercises on the surrounding grounds. Enumclaw is blessed to have such a generous and community minded fire department looking out for us.

Gretchen McCallum  
President

### July 2011 Disaster Education & Awareness Month



### Mission Statement

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

### Emergency Animal Sheltering Course, July 23-24, 2011

Don't forget that the deadline for the final training opportunity for 2011, the re-scheduled **Emergency Animal Sheltering Course**, is rapidly approaching. **July 13, 2011** is the cut-off date and a minimum of 10 pre-registered and pre-paid attendees is required for the course to go forward. This course is open to the public (adults only, please) as well as to WASART members training for deployment. Classroom instruction and actual animal handling with companion animals and live-stock is involved followed by a mock drill on the second day. The course is held in Enumclaw, WA and the cost is \$85.00 for WASART members and \$110.00 for the general public. The registration form is available on the WASART website. For more information, contact the Sheltering Registrar at [amy@lostpetresources.com](mailto:amy@lostpetresources.com).



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## Community Outreach—Peyton's Party—June 18, 2011

It may have been grey, dreary and raining on June 18th at The Kelley Farm in Bonney Lake, WA but the kids didn't care. All they wanted was to visit with the goats, bunnies, chickens, kittens, puppies, miniature horses and donkeys and other critters and get as much hands-on touching as possible. Six year old



Peyton, a little girl with a wonderful smile and a gentle nature, couldn't decide if her favorites were the goats, the kittens, or the miniature horse, Silver. 14 WASART members were joined by another 13 WASART-volunteers-for-the-day in supplying pets, setting up the petting zoo, and making sure every child had the opportunity to pet or hold the animal or animals of their choice. Lines of kids waited patiently in the heavy rain for a ride on a big horse provided by WASART's organizer, **Ritz Duchesne**, many coming back for a second and third time.



Safety was emphasized and instructions and directions were clearly articulated at the commencement of the activities. Make a Wish Foundation helped with decorating the party barn and party tent in which kid-type food such as miniature grilled cheese sandwiches, tiny cup cakes, itty-bitty corn dogs, a small piece of delicious beef on a tablespoon of mash potatoes, etc.,

was served. And, of course, there was lots of candy and punch with a band playing great music for jiggling (kids) and dancing (adults) later in the evening.

Parking and traffic control for the 250+ guests was handled very professionally and efficiently by the 30+ volunteers from Pierce County 4x4, a Search and Rescue unit ably led by its president, Aaron Markham. They also provided first aid medical services with a nurse and an Emergency Medical



Technician and very handily supplied the necessary muscle to unload, setup, take down, and reload all of WASART corral panels that had been used to confine the larger animals.

It was a long, wet day but it was for Peyton and this was her final wish and WASART was honored to be a part of making this day such a success for Peyton and her little friends.

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## Presentations, Appearances, Deployments, etc.

At the request of the American Humane Association (AHA), **Linda McCoy**, **Bill Daugaard** and **Sara Scott** all deployed to Memphis, Tennessee in May to assist with caring for the many animals displaced by the flooding in that area. Then, on June 24th, June 25th and

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WASART's General Meetings are currently held each quarter on the **2nd Wednesday of each quarter** at **7:00 p.m.** The **June 8th** 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 information to follow on the WASART website's Calendar. Everyone is welcome.

June 27th respectively, **Linda McCoy**, **Linden Rowell** and **Byron Wilkes** deployed to Joplin, Missouri at the request of the ASPCA. **Susan Mosby** followed to Joplin, MO, on July 1st, again at the request of the ASPCA, while **Greta Cook** deployed on July 7th to Minot, North Dakota to help Noah's Wish with their emergency shelter. As everyone except Greta has returned from their week-long deployments, the synopsis that follows outlines the experiences and impressions of Linda, Linden, Byron and Susan.

According to Byron, the damage in Joplin subsequent to a grade 7 tornado, i.e., winds up to 370 mph, was the worst he had seen in his many local, national and international animal-related deployments. The high school, like many other buildings, was completely demolished and even concrete walls that had been reinforced by rebar were destroyed in some cases.



Linda, Linden and Byron were the first WASART members to assist at the ASPCA run Camp Joplin in late June. Linden worked exclusively in the cat/kitten section while Linda and Byron worked in the dog section. Because of Linda's expertise, she was assigned to handle all the large and/or aggressive dogs while Byron was called away periodically into the logistics area to help with movement of crates/equipment and restaging efforts.

The main problem was the heat with the heat index registering around 110° every day (temperatures in the low 100s and the humidity around 90%). A great deal of effort went into keeping the cat/kitten enclosure and the dog enclosure/warehouse cool and comfortable although the general warehouse where the supplies were kept was very warm despite the use of large fans. Overall, working conditions and housing/food/water were good given the circumstances and the ASPCA tried to do everything it could to provide a safe working environment. Heat exposure and exhaustion were carefully monitored and people were forced to take breaks during their shifts.

The trio's duties entailed cleaning cages, feeding and watering the animals, exercising the dogs, and cuddling the cats and kittens. The work with the dogs was particularly difficult due to the number of unclaimed animals—over 900 at one point—and the fact that nearly 500 dogs had to be walked every day. Given the heat factor, this a problematic for both the dogs and the dog walkers. At one point, the dog walkers were hosing down the dogs after their walks to protect them from the heat and humidity. Linden spent her first few days assigned to general cat care but was then placed on the team that went over to the Joplin Humane Society shelter to care for cats that were feral or sick.

On the weekend of June 25th and 26th, the ASPCA organized an adoption event that was attended by thousands of people from many different states. Every time a dog or cat was adopted, a bell was rung. Over that weekend, they were able to adopt out 740 cats and dogs. That left approximately 90 dogs and 110 cats/kittens needing permanent homes. The ASPCA began calling remote shelters and, as a result, Byron flew back to



Washington in a small private plane along with 50+ cats and kittens that were delivered to PAWS in Lynnwood and N.O.A.H. in Mount Vernon. Along the way, he provided necessary fluids and antibiotics through syringes to a number of tiny kittens who are now recuperating in foster and adoptive homes.

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Then it was Susan Mosby's turn. She joined the WASART Joplin team four days after the ASPCA's big adoptathon event and stayed for seven days. Her main assignment was assisting the ASPCA contractor who was assigned to the Pet Point information system and in charge of all the paperwork. They worked from 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. every day. Her job was to data enter changes in the animals' status, track down paperwork for animals that were being moved to different locations, calling owners and adopters to give them status updates on their animals, and twice daily inventorying of all the remaining animals in the shelter.



In the final days, they were down to a skeleton crew of five local hired help, three ASPCA directors, a volunteer from Joplin, a volunteer from Pennsylvania, and Susan. After the final three dogs were sent off to Florida for adoption, everything had to be cleaned, cages broken down, papers sorted and filed, floors swept, supplies boxed up, and just generally doing everything that needed to be done to demobilize. Seeing things to the very end was a unique opportunity and

Susan felt she was very lucky to be there when the ASPCA person turned out the lights and locked the doors for the final time.

The WASART volunteers were only a small part of a very large, well-organized effort by a national animal organization to provide care, attention and medical treatment to the animals displaced by the Joplin tornado. However, they returned to Washington with admiration for the dedicated, high energy, caring group of people who were part of the ASPCA or were volunteers from surrounding communities. They bring with them many unique and varied experiences that will be utilized to make WASART even more prepared for when it is our turn to handle similar situations.

At the invitation of the Whatcom County Chapter of the BCHW, Whatcom County WASART member, **Lauri McBeath-Davies**, gave a presentation on **June 8, 2011**. She talked about WASART's origins and capabilities and its desire to partner with organizations with interests complementary to those of WASART's. BCHW is a prime example of such an organization.



On **June 15, 2011**, two members of WASART's Speaker's Bureau, **Gretchen McCallum** and **Ginger Dickson**, gave a presentation to attendees from the Auburn area on WASART's role in an emergency or disaster affecting animals in the community. Suggestions on how to prepare their pets for a disaster were also offered.



the disabled, and seniors. For more information on this program or the organization, contact them at [covenantcreatures@vircom.net](mailto:covenantcreatures@vircom.net).

The next presentation was on **July 8, 2011** when **Cathy Reaney** and **Joyce Moody** talked about Disaster Preparedness for Pets with the good folk at Covenant Creatures in Olympia, WA. This 501(c)(3) organization has a Companion Animal Program that provides material and educational assistance to street pets and their owners, those with low income,



Fisher Communications (KOMO 4 Radio/TV) were the co-sponsors of a huge disaster preparedness expo at the Northgate Shopping Center on Saturday, **July 9th**, and WASART was invited to participate. Staffing booths in the Mall were Emergency Management personnel from Pierce County, the City of Shoreline and the

City of Seattle as well as from the American Red Cross, Seattle Children's Hospital, FEMA, University of Washington, and many others. WASART's booth inside the mall generated a lot of interest from folk wishing to learn how



to prepare their pets for an emergency. Outside in the parking lot, the #1 Supplies and Equipment trailer was open for tours and "Stan", WASART's horse model that was rigged for rescue, did his part in helping folk understand WASART's capabilities in large

animal rescuing. During the afternoon, **Gretchen McCallum** gave a presentation on Disaster Preparedness for Pets and Livestock to an enthusiastic audience eager to learn more about steps to take to ready their beloved animals for emergencies or disasters. This Expo's focus on preparing families, children, pets, etc., for disasters was very well received by the thousands of folk who came to the shopping center especially to gather information and learn how to plan for a disaster. The WASART members who volunteered for mall/parking lot duty were **Ginger Dickson, Michaela Eaves, JoDee Craigmil-Nilsen, Carol Satre, Byron Wilkes, Terry Garcia, Chris Hollinger, and Ken Cottle.**

### Upcoming Events

The **Pierce County Emergency Management** and the **Pierce County Citizen Corps** have issued an invitation to everyone to attend their Third Annual Pierce County Community Emergency Shelter Summit on **July 16, 2011**. It will be held at Pierce College/Ft. Steilacoom in the Health Education Building, 9401 Farwest Drive, SW, Lakewood, WA 98498 from 8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. Various training opportunities are available followed by an exercise in the afternoon. Registration is required but free. To register, go to [www.piercecounty.surveymshare.com/s/AQA2XHD](http://www.piercecounty.surveymshare.com/s/AQA2XHD). For more information, contact Barbara Nelson at [bnelson1@co.pierce.wa.us](mailto:bnelson1@co.pierce.wa.us) or view the flyer on the WASART Calendar.



The **Green Cross Academy of Traumatology** is bringing back Dr. Dan Casey to lead several workshops on Field Traumatology and Compassion Fatigue for Educator and Therapist. These workshops will be followed by Deployment Training and a full scale drill. The dates for the workshops and Deployment Training and Drill are **August 15, 2011 through August 20, 2011** and, with the exception of the Drill, will be held in Kirkland, WA from 8:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m. The Drill will be held in North Bend, WA. Discounts are available for combination registrations. For more information, visit the website at [www.greencross.org](http://www.greencross.org) or email Mary Schoenfeldt at [yoursafeplace@msn.com](mailto:yoursafeplace@msn.com).