

Washington State Animal Response Team

"Helping Animals and their Owners in Disasters"



WASART NEWS

From the President

I have expressed my gratitude in the past to just a few of the wonderful people who volunteer their time and animals to WASART's training programs. Their commitment of energy and effort towards helping WASART train its volunteers to be the most effective when a call for assistance is received is truly remarkable and always, always appreciated.

But now another very recent donation takes center stage. In the past week, a very generous lady in Pierce County donated an 18 foot pontoon boat with trailer, outboard motor, depth finder, radio and other boating necessities to WASART. We are so excited about this donation because it means that WASART's Training Committee can now start drafting a water rescue training segment to add to our Training Curriculum, a process which we thought was going to be on-hold for another two-three years. Thank you so much, Ms. CM, for your thoughtful and much needed gift.

WASART cannot be who we are and do what we do without our supporters. We are so very grateful for them all.

Gretchen McCallum
President

**August 2011
Back to School Month**



Mission Statement

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

Next General Membership Meeting

The next quarterly General Membership Meeting will be via a webinar on **September 14, 2011**, commencing at **7:00 p.m.** It will be hosted by WASART's Vice-President and everyone is invited to attend. For those folk who are more comfortable attending the meeting in person, two locations will be personally hosted by senior WASART members with their laptops. Additional laptops are welcome and instructions for connecting to WebEx will be provided at 6:45 p.m. The two locations are: **Lake Forest Park City Hall**, 17425 Ballinger Way NE, Lake Forest Park, WA 98155 (www.cityofflp.com/directions) and the **Girl Scout Center**, 1000 Davis Place, DuPont, WA 98327 (www.girlscoutswa.org for directions). If WASART members and members of the general public wish to attend the meeting via Webex from their homes or elsewhere, please send an email to info@washingtontart.org no later than September 11th for instruction on setting up your computer with Webex.



September WASART NEWS

I will be on vacation for several weeks next month so look for a combined 'WASART NEWS' for September and October sometime around the middle of October. If you have items of interest you would like to see posted in the newsletter, space permitting, email them to president@washingtontart.org.



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The worried homeowner wasn't sure what he heard because the creature was hidden or had fallen down a deep hole near a shed wall. However, it sounded like a very angry, frustrated dog and that meant Animal Control needed to be involved. In response to a call for assistance from Regional Animal Services of King County (RASKC) on **July 15, 2011**, WASART's Duty Officer, **Gretchen McCallum**, put out a call for Field Response qualified WASART members to respond to the scene in **Tukwila, WA**. **Bill Daugaard** was the WASART Operations Leader on site. After examining the site with RASKC Officer Jenee Westberg and listening more closely to the animal's sounds, they determined that it was probably a raccoon and therefore a wildlife situation that did not involve WASART. The WASART members who either deployed or were placed on stand-by should more resources be needed were: **Dennis Brislawn, Pat Conaway, Joanne Craigmile-Nilsen, Carla Dimitriou, Linda McCoy, Shawndra Michell, Julia Olszewski** and **Denise Steinkerchner**, with **Lauri McBeath-Davies** and **Fred Knight** in Bellingham and **Rory Kelleher** on standby.

The next call came from Snohomish County Police Auxiliary Services Center (SNOPAC) on **July 23, 2011** at 9:45 a.m. A horse had been found trapped in mud under a log on a river-bank in **Sultan, WA**. Fire department personnel from Snohomish County Fire District #5 were on-site as was the owner and several experienced horse people. WASART's Duty Officer, **Gretchen McCallum**, discussed the situation on the phone with Fire Chief Melvin Halvorson and suggested several different options for safely rigging the horse for extraction. As a vet had been called and was on his way, Gretchen decided to wait for the vet's arrival and opinion before beginning the WASART deployment protocol. However, several senior members who were both Field Response qualified and members of WASART's Technical Rescue Team were placed on alert for a possible deployment. When Gretchen called Chief Halvorson 20 minutes later, she was advised that fire fighters had extracted the horse using a 4:1 mechanical advantage block and tackle system. The horse was unable to stand, although trying to do so, and was receiving medical attention from the vet. Congratulations were offered and no deployment was necessary as the matter had been satisfactorily resolved.



Pony with broken leg (illustration only)

While WASART has responded to many calls for assistance for horses trapped in bogs, swamps, wells, ditches, down steep hillsides, over cliffs, etc., the call that always bothers the members the most is the call about a horse with a broken leg. Such was the call received on **August 9, 2011** from Search and Rescue Coordinator, King County Sheriff's Deputy Kathleen Decker. A horse was injured on Tiger Mountain in **Issaquah, WA** with a possible broken leg. The owner was shaken but apparently unhurt. WASART's Duty Officer, **Greta Cook**, began obtaining more information preparatory to commencing the deployment protocol. However, before WASART volunteers were deployed Greta was informed that the situation had been resolved and no further resources were needed.

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 will 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 webinar and personally hosted at Lake Forest Park, WA and DuPont, WA locations. More information to follow on the WASART website's Calendar. Everyone is welcome.

First Aid & CPR Class—September 10, 2011

Members of the general public, and WASART members who need to obtain or renew their First Aid and CPR credentials, are invited to attend the class scheduled for **September 10, 2011** and taught by a licensed instructor. It will be held at the Key Bank Community Meeting Room, 1212 Cole Street, Enumclaw, WA 98022. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. and the class will be **9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** Cost is \$50.00. For more information or to pre-register, contact lanette53@skynetbb.com.



WASART Upcoming Elections

WASART's President, Secretary and Training Director must step down from their positions at the end of this year and new officers are needed to fill two year terms. If WASART members wish to be nominated for any of these positions or wish to nominate other members, please contact the Elections Committee at either steinkd@baxter.com or ztomnik@aol.com as soon as possible. Nominations will be addressed at the General Membership Meeting on September 14, 2011.



Trainings, Presentations, etc.

At the request of Noah's Wish, a national animal welfare organization, **Greta Cook** deployed to Minot, North Dakota, on **July 7, 2011**, for a 10 day stint to assist in providing emergency care and sheltering to the hundreds of companion animals displaced by the flooding in that area. She returned with a wealth of hard-earned experience and knowledge that will be of great benefit to WASART's planning teams.



Supervised by members of WASART's Training Committee, 14 people attended the 2011 Emergency Shelter Training segment of WASART's training program in Enumclaw, WA on **July 23-24, 2011**. Four of the attendees were members of the general public and travelled from as far afield as Spokane, Pierce and Skagit Counties. The first day was mostly classroom instruction with the remainder of the day and most of the second day

being spent at a nearby farm for animal handling of livestock and companion animals and a mock shelter setup and operation drill.

The annual Dog-a-Thon on **July 23, 2011** in support of the Tacoma-Pierce County's Humane Society raised over \$180,000 for homeless pets. For the third year in a row, WASART members staffed a booth at this hugely popular event. At the booth were **Ritz Duchesne, Heidi Kuester, Joyce Moody, Sarah Knapp,** and **Yumi Taylor**.



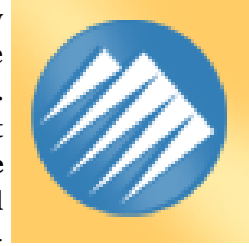
The National Night Out Against Crime held at the Maple Hills Park in Renton, WA on **August 2, 2011**, was attended by **Gretchen McCallum** and **Ginger Dickson** who provided information on disaster preparedness to many interested attendees. The #1 Supplies and Equipment Trailer was open for tours and was of great interest to the public as well as law

enforcement personnel also attending the event.



Yet another WASART member deployed to Minot, North Dakota. This time, **Bill Daugaard** left SeaTac Airport on **August 10, 2011** to spend a week with the American Humane Association (AHA) caring for over 300 companion animals currently sheltered in a large warehouse in Minot. One in four Minot residents have had to evacuate their homes due to flooding.

Over 65 people from many different jurisdictions and Emergency Management Departments attended the Household Pets and Service Animals Emergency Shelter Planning workshop on **August 11, 2011**. This workshop was sponsored by Pierce County Emergency Management and held at the Pierce County EOC. Representing WASART were **Marie Schimke** and **Susan Mosby**. Another regional workshop is scheduled for September 13, 2011. The aim of the workshops is to develop comprehensive HPSA Emergency Shelter plans. For more information, contact Alex Richards at aricha1@co.pierce.wa.us or call 253-798-2226.



To celebrate the first anniversary of the Regional Animal Services of King County, **Gretchen McCallum** was invited to participate in a news conference at the Kent Animal Shelter on **August 12, 2011**. There, in the company of King County Council Executive Dow Constantine, King County Councilmembers Kathy Lambert and Joe McDermott, the mayors of the cities of Kent and Tukwila and PIMA executives, Gretchen expressed WASART's appreciation of the work of the agency and of the mutually beneficial relationship between WASART and RASKC in meeting the needs of animals in the community. During the conference, Dow Constantine announced that the facility would henceforth be known as the 'King County Pet Adoption Center' whose "number one goal is to get pets adopted into permanent, loving homes".



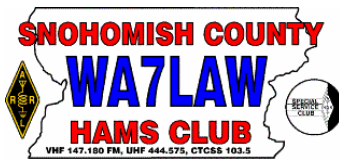
Upcoming Events

WASART Operations Leader, **Denise Steinkerchner**, will give a two hour presentation at the upcoming Disaster Preparedness and Sheltering Course on **September 10, 2011** organized by the Skagit County Emergency Management Department. For more information on this training opportunity, contact Krista Salinas at kristas@co.skagit.wa.us.



The City of Everett is offering a weekly eight week CERT course commencing on **September 14, 2011**. Registration deadline is September 1st and participants must be at least 16 years of age. This free course will be held on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. and conclude on November 2, 2011. For more information or for an application, contact Renee Darnell at rdarnell@ci.everett.wa.us or call 425-257-8111.

The next entry level class at which an amateur radio license can be obtained is scheduled for **September 16, 2011** through September 18, 2011 in Snohomish, WA. The \$50.00 charge covers the cost of the instruction manual, the test fee, and snacks and coffee, etc. The class runs from 6:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m. on the Friday, 8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. on Saturday, and 8:00 a.m. to 3-4:00 p.m. on Sunday (depending on when the exam is completed). For more information or to register, contact Grant Hopper at kb7wsd@aarl.net or call 425-238-1433.





The 9th Annual **Harbor Hounds Dog Walk** will be held on **September 17, 2011** in Gig Harbor, WA. This event benefits the Prison Pet Partnership and the Coalition of HUMANESpay and Neuter Clinic and Rotary Mid-Day Club of Gig Harbor. Two dogs on leashes are the maximum allowed per walker and scooping is required. Lots of vendors will be on-site and day-of-event registration is available. WASART's **Ritz Duchesne, Sarah Knapp and Lanette Knapp** will be staffing a booth so drop by and chat with them. For more information on this event, contact Mike Williams on 253-858-3145 or visit their website at www.harborhounds.com.

On **September 27, 2011**, the **Tri-County Veterinary Medical Association**, serving veterinarians in Whatcom, Skagit, Island and San Juan Counties, has scheduled a continuing education class at 6:00 p.m. in Bellingham, WA. CE credits are available for attending veterinarians. **Gretchen McCallum** and WASART member **Heather Stewart, VMD**, will give a presentation on Disaster Preparedness for Pets and Livestock that evening. For more information on this class, contact Robert Holt, DVM, at tricityvma@gmail.com or at 360-815-6636.



South County Cats, a spay/neuter assistance nonprofit organization, will hold a 'Celebration of Cats' on **October 1, 2011** from 1:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m. at the Maple Valley Community Center, 22010 SE 248th Street, Maple Valley. Admission is free and there will be festivities, kittens, family fun, a silent auction, crafts, raffles, and information on the care of cats and kittens. **Marie Schimke** will give a presentation on Disaster Preparedness for Pets on behalf of WASART. A donation of canned cat food or non-clumping litter is suggested. For more information on this event, please contact southcountycats@comcast.net or visit their website at www.southcountycats.petfinder.org.

What To Do If Your Pet Is Poisoned.

First, don't panic. Take 30-60 seconds to safely collect and have at hand any material involved. If you need to take your pet to a local veterinarian, be sure to take the product's container with you. Also, collect in a sealable plastic bag any material your pet may have vomited or chewed. If you witness your pet consuming material that you suspect might be toxic, do not hesitate to seek emergency assistance, even if you do not notice any adverse effects.

Saving pets' lives...24 hours a day, 7 days a week



Call the Pet Poison Helpline (there is a per incident fee), the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at 888-426-4435 (\$65.00 consultation fee), or your local veterinarian immediately. Keep these numbers in a prominent location or in your cell phone.

Keep in mind that the prognosis is always better when a toxicity is reported *immediately*, so don't wait to see if your pet becomes symptomatic before calling for help. It's always less expensive, and safer for your pet for you to call immediately.



Finally, as a 'just in case' measure, investing in an emergency first-aid kit for your pet would be helpful. WASART sells pet first aid kits for \$30.00 plus postage, stocked with items recommended by WASART's vet members. For more information on these kits contact info@washingtonsart.org.