

Washington State Animal Response Team

"Helping Animals and their Owners in Disasters"



WASART NEWS

From the President

Many wonderful and adoptable dogs end up in shelters because of various adverse situations. Some dogs and puppies are strays or have been abandoned by their owners, others are relinquished because of their owners' financial difficulties, illnesses, or deaths, and yet others have been rescued from puppy mill raids and hoarding situations. Whatever the reason for being in the shelter, five out of ten dogs in shelters are destroyed because there is no one to adopt them. *Source: ASPCA Pet Statistics.*

Spaying and neutering will reduce the current pet overpopulation epidemic and greatly reduce the number of dogs and puppies in shelters. In six years, one unsprayed female dog and her offspring can reproduce 67,000 dogs. *Source: Spay USA.*

So, if plans for adding a dog or puppy to your family are being discussed, don't forget the already available pets waiting anxiously for a new family in the local shelter. Three of my personal favorite organizations with dogs and puppies available for adoption are the Old Dog Haven (www.olddoghaven.org),

the Kent Animal Shelter (www.kingcounty.gov/safety/regionalanimalservices.aspx), and the Humane Society for Tacoma (www.thehumanesociety.org).

"I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do something I can do." — Edward Everett Hale, 1794-1865.

Gretchen McCallum
President

Sept.- October 2011 'Adopt a Shelter Dog' Month



Mission Statement

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

Save the Dates in 2012! All Classes Open to the Public!

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1/7/2012: | Annual Orientation —Eastside Fire & Rescue Headquarters, Issaquah, WA (see flyer on page 4); |
| 2/4-5/2012: | Core —location TBD; |
| 3/3/2012: | CPR/First Aid —Enumclaw, WA; |
| 3/17/2012: | Transport —Enumclaw, WA; |
| 4/28-29/2012: | Field Response —Sunset Lake Camp, Wilkeson, WA; |
| 7/28-29/2012: | Emergency Sheltering —Enumclaw, WA; |
| 9/16/2012: | Mock Shelter Tabletop Exercise —location TBD; |
| 10/13-14/2012: | Mock Shelter Exercise —Enumclaw, WA |

For more information, email us at training@washingtonsart.org, view our Calendar at www.washingtonsart.org, or watch for updates in upcoming monthly newsletters.

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.

Sun and rain greeted the thirty seven WASART members who took part in the third annual WASART Shelter Exercise held Oct 8 and 9 at the Enumclaw Expo Center. The flood evacuation scenario again offered the opportunity to practice setting up a temporary emergency animal shelter.



The three operational periods rotated responders through different roles within the shelter as animals were brought through intake, placed in housing and later released to their owners. The Incident Command System incorporated by WASART was tested as were the intake forms and communications. Safe animal handling practices were stressed and

safety of all involved during the exercise was the top priority. A special treat for participants was the milking of the small herd of dairy goats brought in by WASART Operations Leader, Cathy Reaney. This highlighted a very real scenario we may have to deal with in a shelter situation. Following the completion of the exercise, the two WASART trailers were repacked with the supplies and equipment used during the exercise.



Thanks to all who participated and to those who brought animals. We can't do it without you! We are incorporating lessons learned in our shelter plans and are already preparing for the 2012 exercise tentatively scheduled for October 12-13, 2012.

A follow up table top exercise is being planned to practice Incident Command and communications. It will be a four hour training session open

to all members. Details will be emailed out and posted on the WASART calendar at www.washingtonsart.org.

Submitted by WASART Operations Leader, Greta Cook.

Upcoming Events

On **October 29, 2011**, Thurston County Emergency Management will again host its annual **Thurston County Emergency**

Expo at St. Martin's University, 5300 Pacific Ave., Lacey, WA. The Expo will be from 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. WASART will be present as will many other organizations and agencies focused on emergency preparedness. For more information, email Vivian Eason at eamnv@co.thurston.wa.us or visit the website at www.co.thurston.us/em/expo.



WASART's General Meetings are currently held on the **2nd Wednesday of each quarter at 7:00 p.m.** The **December 14th** meeting will be held at the **Key Bank, 1212 Cole Street, Enumclaw, WA 98022 from 7:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.** This is also the second and final graduation night for members who have completed some or all of the segments of the training curriculum. It is also election night. Everyone is welcome.

Upcoming Events (con't)

WASART's Procurement Committee, chaired by Marie Schimke, is participating in a street long 'Halloween Fest' by holding a fundraiser on **October 31, 2011** at Porter's Antique Mall, 1522 Cole Street, Enumclaw, WA. The event commences at 4:30 p.m. and is sponsored by the Enumclaw Chapter of Commerce. Merchants will remain open until 8:30 p.m. so that children can trick or treat safely. The fundraising proceeds will be used to purchase supplies needed to equip WASART's second trailer.



WASART's Operations Leader, Ritz Duchesne, will give a presentation on "Disaster Preparedness for Pets and Livestock" at 9:00 a.m. at the **Puyallup Emergency Preparedness Fair** on **November 5, 2011**. The WASART supplies and equipment trailer will also be on-site for viewing and tours. The annual Emergency Preparedness Fair will be held at the Puyallup Fair & Events Center Expo Hall. Admission is free. For more information, contact Carolyn Cockrum at ccockrum@ci.puyallup.wa.us or visit the website at www.cityofpuyallup.org.

Maple Valley Fire & Life Safety has scheduled an Emergency Preparedness Night on **November 15, 2011** from 6:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m. in Maple Valley. You must be registered to participate in this free event. The speaker will be Public Education Specialist Janine Johnson and she will discuss the necessity of having go-kits for your car, workplace, home, pets, etc., how to turn off your gas, power and/or water, and the importance of having an emergency plan for your family. To register, contact Janine Johnson at janinej@maplevalleyfire.org. Space is limited.



The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is offering a series of webinars on topics of interest to animal welfare professionals and volunteers. Upcoming webinars on Shelter Guidelines: Spay/Neuter and Shelter Guidelines: Group Housing will be held on **November 17, 2011** and **December 15, 2011** respectively from 3-4 p.m. ET. Previous webinars were recorded and will be posted to their website shortly. For details and links for all of these free webinars, please visit www.aspcapro.org.

Deployments and Almost-Deployments

Since the last newsletter, WASART's services were requested no less than six times for situations such as a dog over a cliff on Vashon Island (8/29/2011); emergency transport of a horse in Maple Valley (9/2/2011); capture of a pig in Tacoma (9/16/2011); extrication of a horse from a bog in Sultan (10/1/2011); assisting a fire department to free a cow from entombment in a barn in Stanwood (10/4/2011); and emergency transport of a horse in Maple Valley (10/10/2011). While not all of these calls resulted in actual deployments, the WASART Duty Officers were pleased to be in a position to have trained members ready to respond to these requests no matter the time or the location. WASART's current response number—425-681-5498—is staffed 24/7 by WASART's Operations and Team Leaders on a rotating weekly basis.



In furtherance of one of WASART's primary goals of educating the public on disaster preparedness for their pets and other animals, members of WASART's Speakers' Bureau were very busy in late August through the middle of October. **Denise Steinkerchner** gave a presentation on Animal Disaster Sheltering in Mt. Vernon at the Skagit County Emergency Animal Sheltering Training on 9/10/2011; **Ritz Duchesne, Lanette Knapp** and **Sarah Knapp** were at Harbor Hounds in Gig Harbor on 9/17/2011; **Amy Adams, Carol Satre** and **Dennis Brislawn** appeared at the Evergreen Hospital Readiness Fair in Redmond, WA on 9/17/2011, and **Gretchen McCallum** and **Michaela Eaves** staffed a booth at the 'Get Ready Expo' in Federal Way on the same date; **Dr. Heather Stewart** and **Greta Cook** gave a presentation to the Tri-County Veterinarian Association in Mt. Vernon on 9/27/2011; **Ginger Dickson** and **Gretchen McCallum** attended the WestSeattle-BePrepared meeting in West Seattle on 9/28/2011; the 10/1/2011 CAToberfest organized by South County Cats in Maple Valley, WA invited **Marie Schimke** to give a presentation while **Bill Daugaard** and **Jason King** were in attendance at the 'Love My Pitbull' event put on by Creature Comforts in Olympia, WA on 10/2/2011. **Gretchen McCallum** and **Ginger Dickson** staffed a booth and gave a presentation, for the third year in a row, at the Maple Valley Emergency Preparedness Fair in Maple Valley while on 10/11/2011, **Amy Adams, Terry Garcia, Denise Steinkerchner** and **Bill Daugaard** taught the animal modules of the CERT (Citizens Emergency Response Team) training program to the CERT members in Shoreline, WA.

Kudos to all the members of the Speakers' Bureau for their hard work. The WASART Board truly appreciates their energy and dedication.



Washington State Animal Response Team

"Helping animals and their Owners in Disasters"

ANNUAL ORIENTATION MEETING

Saturday, JANUARY 7, 2012—9:00 A.M.—noon

Eastside Fire & Rescue Headquarters, 175 Newport Way NW,
Issaquah, WA

WASART is an all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization specializing in animal disaster preparedness, response, recovery, sheltering and reunification.



Learn about WASART's goals, ways to be involved, and how to join and be trained. For more information, contact 360-886-7276, email us at info@washingtonsart.org, view our Calendar at www.washingtonsart.org, or wait for updated information in forthcoming monthly newsletters.