

# Washington State Animal Response Team

*"Helping Animals and their Owners in Disasters"*

## WASART NEWS

### From the President

November 2012

Adopt a Senior Pet Month

We just concluded our latest and most successful Mock Shelter event to date on October 27-28, 2012. We hold this two-day event every year, to allow us to put all our training in emergency sheltering into practice. We try to make the exercise as realistic as possible; to achieve that objective, we recruit members of the community to bring their own animals and play the role of displaced owners who have to leave their animals with us for the duration of our simulated disaster. That way we're dealing with unfamiliar animals, as we will be in a real sheltering situation.

Additionally, we know from experience that when a disaster does strike, members of the community are going to come forward to help out, and we also know that when that time comes, we're going to need their help. So a big part of emergency shelter management is the management of emergent volunteers. So for this year's Mock Shelter, we invited non-members to come and either observe or serve as non-member participants.



### Mission Statement

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

This year we had outstanding support from the community, and I'd like to acknowledge and thank the folks who did such a great job at the event. We greatly appreciate the participation and interest of **Irene Murakami**, from Pierce County Animal Response Team; we had great support from two CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) groups, including **Cheryl Salvati** from Shoreline CERT, and **Jeanette and Bill Harris** and **Stephanie Blackwell-Lloyd** and **Steve Lloyd**, all from Issaquah CERT; **Connie Ellis**, who came, had to leave for a hoof-trimming appointment and then returned; Green Cross Academy of Traumatology volunteer **Nathan Ray**; **Andrea Satre**, daughter of WASART stalwart Carol Satre; **Sgt. Mike McMullen** of the Puyallup Police Department; and last, but by no means least, **Gary Kaufman**, owner of Land's End Llamas. Gary has been one of WASART's greatest and most valued resources over the years, and has assisted us with his wonderful llamas and his expert knowledge for many, many training events.

In addition to the folks above, Clem of Clem's Enumclaw Powersports loaned us his golf cart and Del's Farm & Feed in Enumclaw donated pine shavings to bed the stalls while the American Red Cross Disaster Relief team provided us with a fabulous dinner on the Saturday evening. But besides everyone already mentioned, let's not forget the folks who came and participated in volunteer and observer roles, several of whom, both WASART members and non-members, generously loaned us the use of their animals for the day or the weekend. We're indebted to **Linda Cruzan** (goats); **Carina Davis** (horse and dogs); **Stevie** and **Jasmine Jacobson** (mini-horses and rabbits); **Gary Kaufman** (llamas); **Heather Paton** (kittens); **Suzette Stewart** (ponies); and **Patty Vanessa** (horse), and to WASART members **Ken Cottle** (dogs); **Ritz Duchesne** (horses); **Heidi Kuester** (dog, goats and rabbits); and **Doctor Heather Stewart** (dog and horses). Their generosity played a major role in making our 2012 Mock Shelter a great success. We hope both they and their critters enjoyed the weekend! I know we couldn't have done as well as we did without their support and participation.

Bill Daugaard  
President

The Exercise is primarily an opportunity to practice the WASART Emergency Animal Sheltering Plan: to clarify roles and responsibilities; improve interagency coordination; locate resource gaps; develop individual responder performance; and identify opportunities for improvement. As in previous years, it was held at the Enumclaw Expo Center in Enumclaw, WA.

The Exercise ran for two eight hour sessions with an overnight component. The Horse Barn was utilized as the main animal shelter and was divided into large animal (horse, llama, goat), small animal (dog, cat, rabbit), medical area, a quarantine area and a central office/supplies area. The traffic flow way was utilized to keep animals separated and restrict traffic in the quarantine area. The large Exhibit Hall operated as the Command post and the Volunteer area with areas for sign in, eating and briefings and was also utilized as a first aid station and a resting area.

Volunteers were assigned roles as intake workers, vets (although we used three real vets and a vet tech for this 'job'), barn manager, shelter manager, safety officer, operations leader, etc. Animals were tagged with IDs, supplies provided from WASART's #1 Supplies & Equipment trailer, quarantine and medical areas assigned to remote areas of the barn, and effective communication between command staff and the workers was stressed. Briefings were held regularly and safety was the foremost priority for everyone involved in the Exercise with the wearing of helmets when involved with the animals a mandatory requirement.



Over the two days, 25 WASART members, 10 non-members, three Red Cross, one Green Cross, one employee of the Puyallup Police Department, and 46 animals participated in the Exercise. 10 participants and 22 animals spent the night. Most of the 12 animal owners dropped off their animals and returned later in the day to reclaim them. Three owners remained on-site or overnight to assist with the care of their animals.



This year we were able to incorporate several elements that greatly enhanced the Exercise: the overnight component was much more comfortable with use of the Exhibit Hall as a sleeping area and this allowed us to keep animals

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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](mailto:info@washingtonsart.org) and website is: [washingtonsart.org](http://washingtonsart.org).

overnight in the barn which provided another level of realism and the opportunity to get to know each other better during the down time; the meal provided by Red Cross was another opportunity to get to know a very supportive organization and was well received; the mental health component addressed by the Green Cross added a level of support for the responders and animal owners that can easily be overlooked during stressful events but can make a difference in the overall attitude and functioning of the responders.



The typical Fall rain, wind, and cool temperatures added an element that often is a challenge during these events but the overriding “can do” attitude exhibited by all the participants helped make the exercise a success.

Participants who were involved both days saw an improvement in efficiency and the rhythm of shelter operations. This is typical as each operational period allows time for responders to understand their positions, and what is necessary to get the assigned tasks completed, teamwork to develop and more resources to arrive. Each day had its challenges based on leadership, position management and the experience of available responders as well as the type, number and temperament of animals received. All these factors play a part in the overall functioning of a shelter and point out the need for continued practice so skills can be refreshed and expanded. General feedback from participants was very positive with improvements seen from previous years in management, forms, procedures and overall exercise experience.

Submitted by Greta Cook  
Operations Leader

### WASART's Technical Rescue Team Training

The TRT continues its bi-monthly training schedule with the latest training on **November 17, 2012** being a joint training with the South Whatcom Fire Authority in Bellingham, WA. The focus of the session was rigging and rescue of a canine that had fallen and was stuck on a cliff. Eight WASART members were present. They were **Rory Kelleher, Greta Cook, Julia Olszewski, Bill Daugaard, Teri Weronko, Jason King, Lauri McBeath-Davies** and **Fred Knight**.



Practice began with a classroom demonstration on tying a vertical lift harness on a dog led by **Greta Cook**. Attendees then went out to the engine bay and rotated through three stations, each focused on practicing a different skill: rigging the vertical lift harness on a live dog, tying a tensionless hitch, wrap-three-pull-two anchor and distributed anchor, and switching from a lower to a raise system. All skills were

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then put to use, as individuals had the opportunity to play out a live scenario, hoisted into the air then lowered to a dog in order to rig the harness and clip the dog onto the system, both being raised back up at the end.



After a break for lunch, the training switched focus to simple rescue techniques for horses, including tying a makeshift halter and rigging techniques for assisting a horse that was stuck in mud. Live animals were utilized in this session, provided by **Lauri McBeath-Davies**.

This was the second time that South Whatcom Fire Authority (SWFA) and WASART have conducted a joint training session and it is hoped that more such opportunities will occur in 2013.



### Past Events

Two almost-deployments occurred on **October 26, 2012**: a horse was stuck up to its neck in quicksand in Enumclaw, and a dog jumped over a cliff in North Bend. Another almost-deployment took place on **November 9, 2012** in Whatcom County when a dog fell over an embankment. All were resolved before WASART deployed.

On **October 29, 2012**, **Bill Daugaard**, **Molly Reagan Axt** and **Carol Satre** taught a class on 'We Are WASART' to the Kirkland CERT group.



**Greta Cook** and **Bill Daugaard** travelled to Ellensburg, WA on **November 3, 2012** to attend the monthly Steering Committee Meeting for the 2013 Search & Rescue (SAR) Conference to be held in Ellensburg, WA on May 6-10, 2013. WASART has been tasked with formulating a disaster track for dogs and horses at the annual Conference. Visit [www.wasarconf2013.org](http://www.wasarconf2013.org) for more information on this conference.

### Upcoming Events

On **December 1, 2012**, Pierce County Conservation District will present a class on 'Emergency Farm Preparedness' at the Sumner Public Library from 2:30 p.m.—4:30 p.m. The class will be lead by **Greta Cook** and will discuss how to prepare in advance for an emergency by sheltering in place or evacuating with pets and livestock. Tips for preparing a 'Go Bag' for household pets will be provided as well as other information to prepare you and your pets and livestock for an emergency. Visit [www.piercecountycd.org](http://www.piercecountycd.org) for more information or call 253-845-9770 to register for the class.



WASART's General Membership Meetings are currently held on the **2nd Wednesday of each quarter** at 7:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m. The **March 14th meeting** was held in Shoreline and the **September 12th meeting** was held at the **American Red Cross Mount Rainier Chapter, 1235 South Tacoma Way, Tacoma, WA**. The **June 13th** and **December 12th** meetings will be held at the **Key Bank, 1212 Cole Street, Enumclaw, WA 98022**. All these meetings are open to the public and everyone is invited to attend.