

Welcome to this issue of the Washington State Animal Response Team's monthly newsletter! Find out what the President has to say, what deployments we've been on, where the next meetings will be, and where we'll be with upcoming events. [View this email in your browser](#)



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Helping Animals & Their Owners in Disasters

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## 2013 Meetings

**December 11**

### Membership Meeting

KeyBank, 1212 Cole St,  
Enumclaw, WA

The next General Membership Meeting will held in Milton, WA from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The first hour will be spent on WASART business and the final hour on a mini-training session on a subject of interest to members. And, of course, some social time, too. All general meetings are open to the public and everyone is invited to attend.

## 2014 Meetings

**January 11**

### Annual Orientation Meeting

Have you ever wondered what WASART does? Or how you can help or participate? If so, attend one of the two Annual Orientation Meetings from **10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.** and find out. Two locations

## From the President

### Taking Turns Helping Dogs



*Photo courtesy of the ASPCA. Read more about it at the ASPCA's blog: <http://bit.ly/17xnNbG>*

By now, 11 different WASART team members have deployed with the ASPCA to assist in providing daily care for hundreds of dogs seized in dogfighting rings in Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia. One member, Sara Scott, has rotated back for a second tour. Look for Sara's description of her experiences in the shelter in her story below.

In addition to the 11 individuals who have already deployed, 7 more members are currently scheduled to travel to the temporary shelter in the next several weeks, including a second rotation for Lucinda Yerbury.

WASART is very pleased to be an ASPCA Response Partner; the experience gained in this deployment is invaluable, and there's much to be learned from the ASPCA's methods and systems. The many volunteers from all over the country are using those methods to provide daily behavior training and exercise to give these dogs the best possible chance for adoption and a happy life. It's extremely rewarding to see hundreds of dogs rescued from terrible cruelty and violence getting a new lease on life, and responding with affection and enthusiasm. I just returned from my deployment there, and based on the reports of our early responders, the dogs have made remarkable progress in the weeks since the seizures.

Bill Daugaard  
President

for your convenience:

Shoreline Fire Department,  
Station #61 (north)  
17525 Aurora Avenue North  
Shoreline, WA 98133

Lakewood Town Center (south)  
City Hall Council Chambers  
6000 Main Street SW  
Lakewood, WA 98499

Visit our booth at  
these upcoming  
events

[Microsoft Giving  
Program](#) - October 14-18,  
2013, Microsoft West  
Campus, Redmond, WA -  
for Microsoft employees  
and escorted family and  
friends

[Woodinville Fire &  
Rescue's Winter  
Emergency Preparedness  
Fair](#) - October 19, 2013,  
Woodinville, WA

## Mission Statement

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



## Moses - The Rescue Dog's Rescue



*Moses being hauled up the cliff face in a litter. Photo courtesy Seattle Mountain Rescue.*

A walk with his owners, Ed and Erin Fischer, at Mud Mountain Dam in Enumclaw, WA on September 28, 2013 suddenly turned treacherous for trained water rescue dog, Moses, a 140 lb Newfoundland, when he fell 200 feet down a cliff on the Rim Trail. Despite his anxious owners and their friends and family member diligently searching for two days, it was not until October 1st that he was sighted laying on a sloping bench, barking and moving with a slight hind limp. It was at that juncture that a call for assistance was made to WASART.

WASART's local Operations Lead, Greta Cook, was dispatched to the site to assess the situation. After meeting with the owners and surveying the scene, which included assessing if there was a practical way to walk out Moses if he was uninjured, which there was not, it was determined that the technical nature of the rescue would require additional assistance.

The technical expertise of [Seattle Mountain Rescue \(SMR\)](#) and the radio communication skills of [King County Search & Rescue 4x4 \(4x4\)](#) unit are well known to WASART as WASART and these King County SAR units have partnered together in the past. It was from these two experienced rescue units that assistance was requested.

As members of WASART, SMR and 4x4 arrived, they were sent to the scene with additional gear and to be part of the rope haul teams. A 4x4 member acted as a radio relay near the vehicle staging area and a veterinarian was asked to respond to assess and care for Moses as needed.

At the rescue site, SMR had control of the scene and began setting up the rope systems while others cleared brush and trees from the rescue scene. Two hours later, two SMR members rappelled down to Moses with a litter and gear and began preparing him for the raise. He was happy to see them, in good condition, and very compliant while being harnessed into WASART's dog harness that was then attached to the litter. When told to get in the litter and lie down, he did so readily.

The raise occurred in two parts. First was the litter with Moses strapped in and with one attendant, then the second attendant was brought back up to the trail. Total haul time to get Moses up the cliff face to the surface was 22.5 minutes. 14 minutes later at 7:06 p.m., the second attendant reached the surface. Heather Stewart, VMD., assessed Moses and found him to be sore but in good condition. He was able to walk the .25 miles back to the vehicle staging area.

Seattle Mountain Rescue and 4x4 members worked seamlessly with WASART responders and everyone did a fantastic job to ensure Moses' safe rescue. This was the second successful dog-over-cliff rescue in this location in which WASART was involved in just over a year. Fortunately, this time Moses came away with very minor injuries considering the distance he fell. The previous dog rescued in June, 2012 had substantially more serious injuries but also survived. Sadly, a dog owner lost her life in 2005 while trying to rescue her dog who had gone over the same cliff. WASART was not involved in that rescue attempt. That dog survived as well.

This is what we do - rescue animals in distress to keep people safe.



*The litter Moses was hauled up in made the rescue safer and easier.  
Photo courtesy Seattle Mountain Rescue.*



*When told by the rescuer at the bottom of the cliff to get in the litter, Moses got right in. Photo courtesy Seattle Mountain Rescue.*

## Thoughts from a Volunteer Working with Dogs Seized from a Dog Fighting Investigation



*Sara Scott caring for a seized puppy.*

## October 2013

*Airport lines. Airplane seats. Hotel rooms and roommates. Early mornings. Hard work. Dogs. So many dogs. Incredible dogs. Dog poop. Wagging tails everywhere. Confusion. Understanding. Growth. Teamwork. Satisfaction.*

I recently had the opportunity to deploy as a WASART responder, assisting the ASPCA with the daily care of hundreds of pit bull mixes who were rescued from a [multi-state dog-fighting ring](#) in August 2013. The dogs are housed in a temporary emergency shelter established in a undisclosed location. These animals are currently considered evidence as part of the ongoing investigation.

The experience was both educational and personally valuable. It was an honor to be part of a remarkable team. There are multitudes of talented people from all over the country combining compassion and energy to ensure the best possible conditions and outcomes within this very sad and challenging reality.

I learned many things during this deployment, and what resonates the strongest with me is the fact that pit bulls are not "terrible monsters". In nearly all cases that make the news, the human owner/handler is directly responsible for the animal's aggressive or dangerous behavior.

Fighting dogs are innocent victims of horrific violence who have endured and survived the ultimate betrayal by humans and society. They simply wish to live and please their owner. Often they are sick and injured, malnourished, scared and very lonely. I look around, see scars and fear.

*Souls once tortured now held dear. Overwhelmed. Disbelief. I cry, I curse, I seek some peace. I lace up my boots and go scoop poo. Honored to love them. Grateful for all y'all do.*

If you are inclined to support the plight of fighting dogs (and, really, they deserve and need our advocacy), here are some things you could do:

- Support the [Animal Fighting Spectator Prohibition Act](#), which would make it a felony to attend a dogfight. [Contact your governmental representatives](#): let them know you support this important legislation. Ask them to take action to move this bill into law.
- Get to know a pit bull or two or three. Form your own opinion about this breed. Share what you learn with anyone who will listen. Many shelters and rescue groups have pit bulls and pit bull mixes that would benefit greatly from your thoughtful attention.
- If you are able, train and deploy with WASART or another highly skilled and reputable animal response team. Experienced and dedicated volunteers make this work possible.
- If circumstances allow, donate money or time to WASART, the ASPCA, or another hard-working and responsible non-profit animal welfare or advocacy organization. These groups depend on us to respond effectively for animals in disaster or cruelty cases.

Submitted by Sara Scott  
WASART Member

## WASART Members Volunteer with World Vets in Peru



*Shawndra and Linda taking a break from work with World Vets.*

Having recently returned from what was nothing less than an amazing experience in Peru, we're already planning our next trip back! The people were absolutely wonderful, the food was divine, and the entire cultural affair was the experience of a lifetime.

We participated in a large-scale spay/neuter campaign with a great organization called World Vets. We both learned how to put in and remove catheters, proper sterilization of surgical tools, assisted with spays and neuters, and all forms of recovery work, including administering various sub-cutaneous and topical medications.

At the end of Day 3, we had spayed and neutered over 150 dogs and cats, and even removed a few tumors, some teeth, and amputated a severely broken leg. Even though most of our communications were handled through an interpreter, we were still able to converse with the local people, and they were incredibly grateful for us being there.

We were both surprised to see so many different types of perros (*dogs*), and a lot bigger breeds than we expected! We didn't see a whole lot of gatos (*cats*), but apparently, they like to hang out on the rooftops and sun themselves. There were a lot of dogs, everywhere, and interestingly enough, it appeared that the majority of them actually belonged to various places/people. One local told us that the way to have a dog in Cusco is to let him or her out in the morning to search for food, and then let them back in at night.

After one BIG hailstorm that left a couple of inches of snow and ice on the ground, we were happy to see that the streets were relatively empty of dogs at night, hoping that they were inside with their families.

The dogs and cats were in much better condition than we expected too. There were no fights and the dogs all seemed to be very well behaved. It was interesting, especially in the markets, because there was a whole lot of stuff they could have gotten into. But, they just seemed to know the routine, and they were pretty much allowed everywhere.

Our experience was that the Peruvian people really love their animals, and the dogs, especially, are just part of the culture. We fit right in!

Submitted by Linda McCoy & Shawndra Michell  
WASART Members

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## Disaster Stress Management Pioneer Honored



Mary Schoenfeldt, a valued and very popular presenter of WASART's Disaster Psychology class, has been nominated and selected for inclusion in the [International Network of Women in Emergency Management Hall of Fame](#). The goal is to honor women pioneers and leaders in the fields of civil defense, emergency management, and homeland security.

This award honors the contributions individuals make in the advancement of women in emergency management and a culture of preparedness for safer, resilient, and sustainable diverse communities. The mission is to recognize women from around the world who continue to dedicate their lives and careers while serving in professions that include education, science, medicine, engineering, and military service. These innovators demonstrate keen abilities to build partnerships by incorporating and working with their partners while overseeing prevention and protection of life and property, public health, safety, critical infrastructure and facilities.

Besides her employment as the Public Education Coordinator for the City of Everett's Office of Emergency Management, Mary somehow finds time to be President of the [Green Cross Academy of Traumatology](#).

This organization responds to requests from individuals, organizations, and other entities following a traumatic event to provide, among other services, crisis assistance and counseling.

WASART congratulates Mary on this well-deserved honor and looks forward to a long and enlightening relationship.

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## Upcoming Training Opportunities

### Pet First Aid and CPR Classes



Photo by [Garann](#), published under Creative Commons attribution/share alike license.

A Pet First Aid and CPR class will be taught by Certified PetTech Instructor, Annette Lanker, on November 9, 2013 from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. in Enumclaw, WA. The cost is \$50.00 and this class is open to everyone. Must register and pay by November 4th and a minimum of five attendees is required for the class to go forward. For more information or to register, contact [registrar@washingtontart.org](mailto:registrar@washingtontart.org).

Another Pet First Aid class is being offered on November 24, 2013 in Clackamas County, Oregon by WASART member Jo Becker and WASART member and Licensed Vet Technician and emergency management professional, Hollie Smith. This free class is entitled **Pet First Aid: Knowing What to Do When Minutes Count**. This is not a first aid certification course but focuses on increasing animal owners' awareness and general knowledge. The class is from 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. and will be held at [Clackamas Fire District #1](#). For more information or to register, contact Jo Becker at <http://jobecker.weebly.com/AIDpresentations.html>.

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