

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](#)



www.washingtonsart.org

Helping Animals & Their Owners in Disasters

From the President

Rescue Randy, Box Van Added to Our Toolbox

- [Rescue Randy, Box Van Added to Our Toolbox](#)
- [Helping the Working Horses of Nicaragua](#)
- [Stay Safe in the Season of Downed Power Lines](#)
- [Volunteering Pays Back In Tax Write-Offs](#)
- [5K Fitness Challenge to Benefit Snohomish Helicopter Rescue Team](#)
- [Volunteer of the Quarter: Renee Young](#)
- [A Gift for Someone That Has Everything, Including a Big Heart](#)
- [Shopping with Amazon? Here's How It Can Help WASART](#)
- [Orientation](#)



Introducing "Rescue Randy." Randy is one of only 13 such training mannikins in this country and he is the first to take up residence in the Pacific Northwest.

We in WASART are excited about having taken possession of, or being about to receive, two very important items of new equipment that will greatly enhance our ability to train for and respond to animal emergencies. We have already acquired and are in the process of outfitting a new rescue vehicle, a 12' box van, that will be fitted out to carry rescue gear. This new van will expand our rescue range and reduce our response time.

The other equipment acquisition that we're eager to receive is "Rescue Randy," an articulated, full-sized

Did you know rescuing a dog from a cliff can cost almost \$5000?

It's only possible because of you.

[Donate](#)

[General Meetings](#)

April 8, 2015

Location to Be Determined

The next General Membership Meeting will be held a yet to be determined location from **7 pm - 9 pm**. The first hour is spent on WASART business and the final hour is a mini-training session on a subject of interest to members. And, of course, some social time, too. All General Membership Meetings are open to the public and everyone is invited to attend.

Upcoming training

January 10 & January 25, 2015

[WASART Orientation](#)
Eastside Fire Rescue Headquarters
175 Newport Way
Issaquah, WA 98027

Upcoming events

No Upcoming Events

Did you know we're often available to talk to your group about WASART or disaster prep?

Mission Statement

To help animals and their owners through disaster

training horse now being shipped to us from England. Rescue Randy will permit WASART's training for large animal rescue to be much more realistic and effective. We believe we're the only organization in the Pacific Northwest to have such a training aid, and are very excited to see him put to effective use.

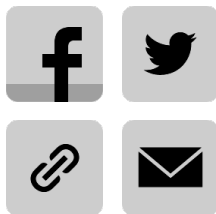
These new acquisitions are the direct result of the generosity of the Snoqualmie Tribe, Noah's Wish Foundation, the Seattle Foundation, Merrill Lynch and numerous individual donors as a result of our efforts to provide emergency animal sheltering during last summer's wildfires in Eastern Washington. We pledge to put these donors' gifts to the best possible use to improve our abilities to respond to animals in distress.

I wish all our readers the happiest of holiday seasons and a prosperous and rewarding year to come.

Bill Dugaard
President

Helping the Working Horses of Nicaragua

preparedness, education,
and emergency response.



Volunteers check a horse in Granada, Nicaragua during a World Vets clinic for working equines.

Dr. Dana Bridges Westerman is a large animal veterinarian and a good friend to WASART. She is also an active member of [World Vets](#), an organization dedicated to providing international aid to animals and to helping human agricultural communities in all of the broad ways to which the term "community" implies. Dr. Dana's work with World Vets has taken her as far as Tanzania to help communities reliant upon donkeys for survival and now, her most recent World Vets assignment, comes a return trip to Granada, Nicaragua. Dr. Dana shared her passion and her world community activism

through the details and photos of this trip for WASART members who attended our December General Meeting on Dec. 10.

Dr. Dana's presentation provided a reality check in regard to the vast cultural differences between owning pets in a privileged country like ours versus living in a country where having an animal makes it more likely that your family will eat, work, and survive. Dr. Dana told a story which brought that point home. She described seeing a man driving a cart led by a tired, emaciated horse. She asked the man if it would be possible to let the horse rest. He explained that he would like to rest the horse but his wife had just had both of her legs amputated and if the horse rested he would not be able to get the money he needed for his wife's pain pills.

Because not all of our WASART members were able to attend her presentation, Dr. Dana is sharing the following World Vets Synopsis of the experience to give all of us an opportunity to know the profound difference World Vets is making in those Nicaraguan communities:

Much like an earlier trip in 2013, the goal of this trip was to provide care for the working equine of Granada. The team of veterinarians and volunteers worked hard, in very hot weather, treating a variety of conditions and performing procedures that spanned the spectrum. By the end of the trip they had helped 300+ horses! The World Vets team observed lifestyles and living conditions that were difficult and often heartbreaking. In some areas of Granada people and animals must work without rest, every day, so they can struggle to barely get by. The people rely heavily on their animals for nearly everything, treating them as tools rather than pets. This shocking cultural difference manifests in the relationship of dependence where the concept that animals feel pain is foreign and difficult to grasp for adults and children alike. This is where the educational efforts of the World Vets mission comes into play. In addition to the field work, treating

numerous afflictions, injuries, and providing preventative care, there was an educational aspect. Dr. Dana led a seminar on Equine Dental Health for the Veterinarians in Nicaragua, with a Spanish interpreter and Equine Dental brochures that were translated into Spanish. The brochure, titled "Common Equine Dental Malocclusions," was written by Dr. Thomas J. Johnson and Dr. Colleen M. Porter, and translated into Spanish by Abraham Mejia.

They are not only treating animals present during the brief period each World Vets team is in Granada, the teams are also educating the locals on animal health and teaching them how to properly care for their animals to improve the quality of life of the hard working equine. A stronger, more productive animal working class will in turn result in a better quality of life for the people who depend on them. It is a wonderfully beneficial ripple effect! One of the biggest victories to come out of this heroic endeavor is the future opening of an equine clinic in Granada. One of the team members, Dr. Marielena Solorzano, will be helping lead the way to better equine health in Granada with a brand new equine Clinic! Funded by the generosity and support of dedicated animal lovers, Dr. Solorzano will be coming to Washington in the Spring of 2015 to receive the training she will need to run the clinic. Dr. Dana and many other experts have offered to donate their time and share their knowledge with Dr. Solorzano, to arm her with the skills and experience necessary to create and run an equine clinic. The support and efforts of so many people are coming together to benefit the equine population and ultimately the entire population of Granada.

WASART has several other members who also volunteer with World Vets and we all benefit from their experience. There are many volunteer opportunities available for this ongoing effort in Nicaragua as well as similar missions in locations around the world and not just for veterinarians. For more information please visit: www.worldvets.org

Stay Safe in the Season of Downed Power Lines



A downed line can energize the ground up to 30 feet from its point of contact. This photo taken in New Orleans just after Hurricane Katrina is courtesy of [Marv Heston](#).

Field response training for human and animal rescue during natural disasters necessitates some schooling on the likely hazards faced by volunteers. Be it an earthquake, a hurricane, or a windstorm, downed power lines are a cause for concern. Here in the Pacific Northwest where windstorms are all too common one needn't be a field responder to encounter an arcing power line across the road. Should you be faced with a downed power line here is some information to help you and your pets or livestock avoid electrocution.

Often, but not always, the downed line can create a fire at the point of contact making it obvious that the line is charged. Some downed lines might be Comcast or phone lines but for your safety **assume that all downed lines are “energized.”**

If you're walking: Stay 30 feet away. Electricity from a downed power line can “energize” the ground up to 30 feet from its point of contact with the ground. The electricity can jump and arc unpredictably. The same danger exists for pets that venture into a

charged field.

If you're driving: Car tires do provide protection for you to drive around a downed line but NEVER drive over a downed line. The danger here is that a line could become caught up in a wheel whereby your car becomes "energized." Driving with entangled line can cause more line to come down and can bring a telephone pole across your car. If your car becomes entangled in a downed line the following advice can prevent tragedy.

If power lines have fallen on your vehicle or are touching your car: Your car is "energized." Know that you are safe like a bird on a wire but anyone who touches your car will be shocked or electrocuted. Tell bystanders to get help but keep them 30 feet away from the vehicle. Further, be aware that should you touch the car and the ground at the same time your body becomes a conduit for electricity so **stay in your car.**

If the vehicle is on fire and it is necessary to leave it: The Snohomish County Public Utility District recommends using this technique: Keeping both feet together, jump clear of the car, avoiding any wires that might be on the ground. Stay calm and jump carefully so that you don't fall back against the car or touch the ground and the vehicle at the same time. **Then shuffle with both feet together clear of the area, keeping both feet on the ground and touching at all times. Continue shuffling for at least 30 feet from the accident site.**

(<http://www.snopud.com/Safety/downedlines.ashx?p=1756>)

Volunteering Pays Back In Tax Write-Offs



Many of you volunteer to help raise funds or perform other tasks on behalf of animal-rescue groups and other charitable organizations. When the annual reckoning with the Internal Revenue Service rolls around, the reward for your willingness to help out can take the form of write-offs for unreimbursed expenses incurred while you do volunteer work for rescue groups. To qualify as charitable deductions, the expenses in question must further the groups' missions, such as foster care for stray animals.

As an animal-rescue volunteer, you need to be mindful of tricky rules for donations, whether they take the form of gifts of cash or property or volunteer expenses.

What follows is a summary of the many possibilities.

Only Out-of-Pocket Outlays Count

The law allows volunteers to claim itemized deductions on Schedule A of Form 1040 only for what you spend to cover unreimbursed expenses—for instance, telephone calls, postage stamps and stationery, as well as other materials (say, to prepare posters or other forms of advertising for fund-raising campaigns).

What kinds of expenses can rescue workers write off at tax time? Some examples of qualifying outlays that are frequently overlooked: animal feed, medicines, cat litter, litter boxes, pet dishes, cleaning supplies, garbage bags, paper towels, laundry detergent and dish detergent; animal bedding, animal toys, fees

paid to veterinarians and trainers, and food for volunteers building temporary shelters for pets evacuated from flood zones in hurricanes.

Uniforms

Some organizations require volunteers to wear uniforms. Because these uniforms aren't adaptable to ordinary wear, deductions are allowed for their cost and cleaning.

Travel

An often missed outlay begins the moment that you leave your home. Your allowable deductions include travel expenses to and from animal shelters, veterinarians, committee meetings, fundraising events, and so on. If you travel to and from your volunteer work by planes, trains, buses, or taxis, just make sure to keep track of your fares and claim them as travel expenses.

If you use your own auto, you have two options for handling the expenses: The first option is to deduct the actual cost of gas and oil. Unlike write-offs for business driving, you can't claim depreciation because that isn't an actual cash payment. Nor can you claim insurance and repairs unless you use the car only for charitable driving or the repairs are directly attributable to that use.

The second option is to make the paperwork simpler by claiming a standard mileage rate. The standard rate was 14 cents a mile for tax year 2011 but check with your accountant as that rate may have changed since then.

Whether you use the mileage allowance or drive a gas guzzler and claim actual costs, remember to deduct parking fees and bridge or highway tolls, as well. It's a good idea, in case an IRS examiner questions your charitable travel, to be able to support your deductions with a glove compartment diary in which you record why and how far you went, as well as what you spend on parking. You don't have to use the same car each time and can use more than one

car at the same time. If you rent an auto and drive it only for charitable travel, include the entire rental charge with your other charitable expenses.

Overnight Expenses

When volunteer work requires that you be away from home overnight, your deductions also include lodgings and meals as long as they're "reasonable," as opposed to "lavish or extravagant." Note that these meals are 100 percent deductible, unlike business meals, which are only 50 percent deductible.

To back up your deductions in the event of an IRS audit, save a copy of the convention program and check off the sessions that you attend as a delegate. Sign an attendance book for any sessions that provide one. Keep a diary of your convention related expenses, along with hotel and restaurant bills.

IRS Paperwork

Strict rules apply when a volunteer incurs an unreimbursed expense of \$250 or more, such as an airline ticket. No deduction for the outlay is permitted unless you obtain and keep for your records a written statement from the charity. The statement needs to describe the type of services you performed for the charity and whether you received any benefits in return. The charity needn't list the expenses you pay as a volunteer.

Help from the IRS

For more information, take a look at [IRS Publication 526, Charitable Contributions](#), or telephone 800-TAX-FORM.

Excerpted from article written by Julian Block, attorney, for Pet News and Views.

**5K Fitness Challenge to Benefit
Snohomish Helicopter Rescue Team**



The Snohomish County Rescue Team, pictured here at the site of the Oso landslide, will be the beneficiary of this year's Resolution 5k.

Last January, longtime friend, WASART member, Katrina animal rescue veteran, and [Serious About Fitness](#) trainer extraordinaire, Carol Swindaman, organized a successful 5K Fundraiser for WASART. Carol would like to extend an open invitation for all to attend her 2015 5K Fundraiser to support another invaluable search and rescue team here in the state of Washington. The recipient for this year's 5K event will be the [Snohomish County Helicopter Rescue Team](#). We can't think of a more deserving recipient. This group of local heroes performs an average of 80 rescues each year and, like WASART, they rely upon donations to stay airborne. From plucking hapless hikers off of cliffs to their lifesaving service during the Oso landslide we salute them and wish them a successful fundraising effort. For more information see the link below. Participation is limited so act quickly if you are interested in joining us for this fitness challenge and if you would like the pleasure of meeting these fine folks please follow the link below.

Sunday January 4, 2015

10AM

Serious About Fitness

Run or walk along the Sammamish River Trail in Redmond, WA.

Two fitness Challenges optional

Awesome tek fabric shirt!!

(must register by December 17th to guarantee a shirt)

Post Event Party at Hi-Fi Brewing Company -

beer, chili, chowder and all of the fixings

The proceeds of this event will benefit the
Snohomish County Helicopter Rescue Team!!
Several of the team will be joining us for the run!!

Registration is open!! **SIGN UP NOW!!!**

<http://www.seriousaboutfitness.net/content/resolution-5k-runwalk>

Volunteer of the Quarter: Renee Young



Renee Young checks paperwork at intake during this year's Annual Exercise.

We are pleased to announce that Renee Young is the recipient of our WASART Quarterly Volunteer Award. Renee is originally from Missoula, Montana but has lived here in the Seattle area for 10 years. Renee has been with WASART for two years. She first heard about WASART through another member, Molly Regan Axt, while she was volunteering for [PAWS](#). Renee signed up for her first WASART class, Emergency Sheltering, held at Dr. Heather Stewart's farm in Enumclaw. If you've never been to Dr. Heather's farm know that it bears a close resemblance to animal heaven. Renee loved the class and describes her reaction as, "I found my people."

Renee became interested in animal volunteer service

after reading a horrible story about animal abuse. Like many of us, Renee realized that getting directly involved in animal welfare can be a positive response to harsh reality. Renee's animal welfare vocation presented early in her life. Renee remembers that as a child she would stage animal water rescues by imagining that the sofa cushion was her raft and the carpet was the water. Though WASART doesn't currently make water rescues, Renee's ongoing contribution to WASART illustrates her dedication to animal welfare.

Among her contributions, Renee deployed to Florida when WASART partnered with the ASPCA in response to a massive dog fighting case. She also deployed with WASART to the Carlton Complex Fires and worked in the shelter in Okanogan during the wildfires last summer. Renee currently works on the Training Committee, the Sheltering Committee, and she is WASART's registrar. She especially loves being our registrar because she says it gives her a chance to meet and know the names of all of our members. Renee says that when she's with WASART she "feels really present and doesn't want to be anywhere else." WASART is honored that Renee feels this way. Renee is a warm, loving, and joyfully enthusiastic human. Renee loves WASART and we love Renee. Congratulations and many thanks to you, Renee

Easy Money

A Gift for Someone That Has Everything, Including a Big Heart



Image by [asenat29](#), licensed under Creative Commons. Some changes made.

Looking for a gift for the animal lover in your life who has everything? Please consider donating to WASART in the name of a friend or loved one. You still have some time to make your tax deductible donation before the end of the year - every dollar counts! We are volunteer run and funded by your donations, so please help us use your donations to purchase much needed rescue equipment, shelter supplies, etc., that we use when our animal friends need our services. Donation receipts will be issued by our Treasurer. Donations can be mailed to WASART, P.O. Box 21, Enumclaw, WA 98022 or through PayPal at <http://www.washingtonsart.org/donate.html>.

Shopping with Amazon? Here's How It Can Help WASART



Want to help WASART while you do your holiday shopping? If you plan on buying anything from Amazon this year, we are now an Amazon affiliate. This means anything you buy after you click the link will earn WASART a commission of 4%-7%. It's a great way to support us while doing something you'd do anyway. We do like to encourage you to shop local first, but if you happen to need something from Amazon, just click through <http://bit.ly/shopAmazonForWASART> and shop as you normally would. Thanks and have a happy and safe holidays.

Orientation

UPCOMING TRAINING

Heard about WASART but not sure what we do? Interested in volunteering but not sure how you can be involved? Come to either of our Orientation meetings (another duplicate meeting is scheduled for January 25th at the same location) and learn about the organization and the many volunteer opportunities available.

Doors open at 9:00 a.m.

Sat Jan 10, 2015 10am – 12pm Pacific Time

(repeat event Jan 25th, same time and locaiton)
Issaquah Fire & Rescue Headquarters,
175 Newport Way NW, Issaquah, WA 98027

For more information, contact
info@washingtonsart.org.

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. Mail us at: WASART, P.O. Box 21, Enumclaw, WA 98022.

info@washingtonsart.org - www.washingtonsart.org • (425) 681-5498

Copyright © 2014 Washington State Animal Response Team (WASART), All rights reserved.
[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

MailChimp