

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](http://www.washingtonsart.org)

Helping Animals & Their Owners in Disasters

## From the President

### Good Weather Brings Opportunities, Hidden Dangers

- [Good Weather Brings Opportunities, Hidden Dangers](#)
- [Live Animals, Better Skills](#)
- [Rub-a-dub-dub, a Horse Stuck in a Tub](#)
- [Rain, Ravines, & Patient Animals](#)
- [June 7: Transport](#)
- [June 21: Technical Large Animal Rescue Training \(TLAR\)](#)

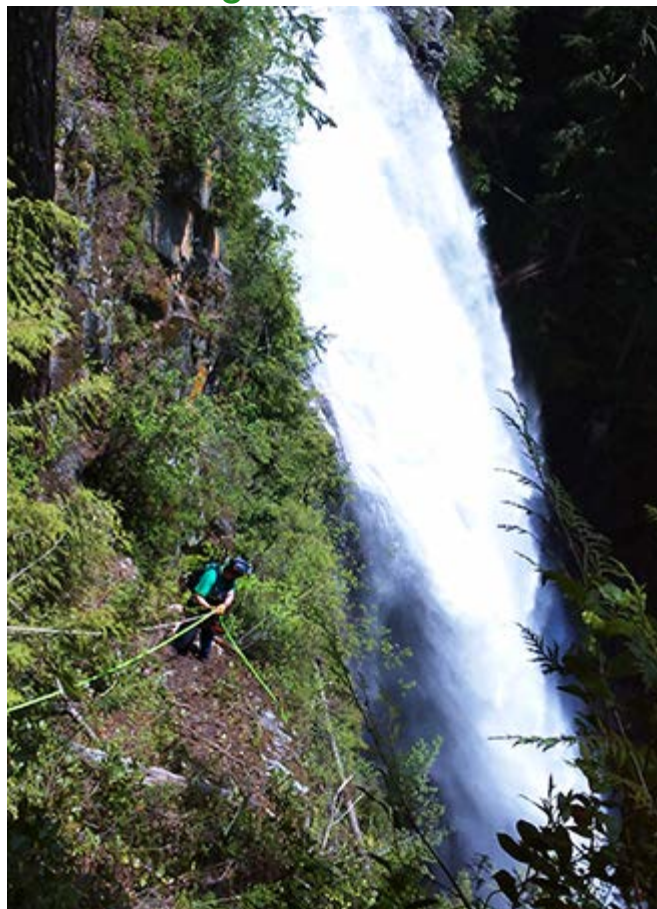
Donate

General Meetings

#### June 11

Shoreline Fire Department,  
#61  
17525 Aurora Avenue North  
Shoreline, WA 98133

The next General Membership Meeting will be held in Shoreline, WA 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.



*WASART checked two spots at the popular Wallace Falls for Fats, a black lab lost a few days before. Non-WASART volunteers searched much of the other area, and WASART focused on the part too dangerous to search without training and safety equipment. The dog still has not been found.*

## Training Opportunities

(Open to the public)

### [June 7 - Transport](#)

Enumclaw, WA

### [June 21 - Technical Large Animal Rescue \(TLAR\) \(Awareness\)](#)

Enumclaw, WA

### [July 12-13 - Animal Sheltering](#)

Enumclaw, WA

Visit our booth at these upcoming events

### **July 19 - Tacoma/Pierce County Dog-A-Thon**

Ft. Steilacoom Park - Lakewood, WA

### **August 2 - Woofstock**

Tacoma, WA - Univ. of Puget Sound

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 preparedness, education, and emergency response.

May is proving to be busy for WASART as I write this at mid-month. On May 6, King County Office of Emergency Management (KCOEM) invited us to participate in its quarterly mini-activation exercise at the Regional Communications and Emergency Coordination Center (RCECC). The event simulated the operation of the RCECC during an extreme heat event, and practiced changing shifts between operational periods during the second day of an expected five-day event. Greta Cook, Natalie Rojas, Carla Dimitriou and I had the opportunity to respond to simulated incidents that occurred, and to hand off management of the events as the second shift relieved the first. It was an interesting exercise, and an excellent opportunity to see the RCECC in action and participate in its operation. We were very pleased to be invited, and look forward to future opportunities to participate.

That exercise was followed the next weekend by WASART participating in the annual Washington State Search and Rescue (SAR) Conference for the fourth consecutive year. Greta Cook did a classroom presentation on WASART's capabilities and ways we can work with SAR groups, as we already have on numerous occasions. Then our Technical Rescue Team (TRT) put on a demonstration of technical large animal rescue techniques showing various methods for aiding or rescuing animals in a variety of situations.

Our folks had barely returned from the conference when we received a series of requests for assistance for animals lost or in distress in Snohomish County. We were requested by the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office to assist in evacuating a dog that had been injured near Lake Serene, and then the following day our Technical Rescue Team spent the day searching for a dog that had apparently been swept over Wallace Falls three days earlier. A large number of volunteers had been searching for the dog, and the Sheriff's Office was concerned that untrained searchers would be at risk searching in hazardous areas. They therefore requested our assistance for



the search. Unfortunately, the day-long search did not turn up any evidence of the missing dog.

That brings me to conclude with yet another plea for people not to allow their dogs to go off leash on backcountry trails. The episode that caused our search at Wallace Falls was the second incident in a month of a dog going over the falls, and only the latest in a long series of tragedies or near tragedies we've been asked to respond to in many different locations. Please, don't expose your dog to such risk, and yourself to such pain.

Bill Dugaard  
President

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## Live Animals, Better Skills



*Above, Gary Kaufman of [Roads End Llamas](#) shows a volunteer how to halter a llama (left), while another volunteer takes a break with a relaxed foster dog from [Valhalla Canine Rescue](#) (right).*

WASART's Field Response Training was held at Sunset Lake Camp in Wilkeson, WA over the weekend of April 25-27. One of the reasons that this training is a particular favorite is that we "animal people" love being around animals. During Field Response Training we get to practice with companion animals as well as livestock. April's training did not disappoint as we were able to handle a wide variety

of critters including horses, cattle, llamas, sheep, rabbits, chickens, ducks, and an awesome group of rescue dogs. Practicing with live animals and the hands-on nature of the training provide the opportunity to develop and strengthen skills the WASART Field Responder will need on a deployment.

WASART Field Response Training is designed to give the responder the basic skills and knowledge needed to assist animals in a variety of rescue scenarios ranging from single short term incidents to multi agency responses to full scale disaster evacuation and emergency shelter responses. The training encompasses scene awareness and safety, incident management and base support, hazardous materials and Biosecurity, zoonotic diseases, animal assessment, animal handling: approach, capture, moving and loading into crates or pens and trailer loading. Both companion animals and livestock are handled. Helicopter, fire and water safety awareness along with basic rope rigging and systems are covered to raise awareness of the multitude of elements that may impact a rescue situation.

There were a total of 23 member participants for WASART's Field Response Training and nine non-members. WASART now has 18 new members who will soon be eligible to deploy. We would like to thank everyone who brought their animals to Field Response Training and a big shout out to Gary Kaufman of [Roads End Llamas](#), Stevie Jacobson, for bringing her horses, and to Patti Angeliz at [Valhalla Canine Rescue](#) for bringing all those sweet pups, Diane Johnson for feathered friends and more horses, Liz LaVell for the goats and sheep, Heidi Kuester for the rabbits, and Alex Thomas and Walt Benomi for the cattle.

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**Dr. Dana Westerman**

**Rub-a-dub-dub, a Horse Stuck in a Tub**



*Unsticking a horse in this situation is no easy task. Illustration copyright [Carla Dimitriou](#), used by permission.*

***Disclaimer:*** *Prior to the inception of WASART, if there was a large animal stuck somewhere that it shouldn't have been, people called the veterinarian. Prior to hurricane Katrina, not much, if any, training was available to us on how to handle the situations that we encountered. The following story comes from that time, so please keep that point of reference. Now, with the appropriate training, I may have done things differently!*

I work many, many hours in the summertime. Usually if it is light out, I am working. I love what I do, but once in a while, I need a break!

It was one of the longest days of summer daylight and I had finished early for me, early meaning that it was still light out. I came home and collapsed on the couch in the living room. It felt so good to just sit for a moment, relaxing with my eyes closed, doing nothing. I was asleep in a wink. And then the phone rang...

A frantic voice on the other end cried "You need to come NOW; Zevo is stuck in the bathtub!" My brain had shut itself off when I closed my eyes, so my response time was a bit sluggish. I knew Zevo, a full sized Appaloosa gelding who resided two towns to

the south with some other horses and his owner Ms. Lori. But when she said bathtub, the first question out of my mouth was, "What was he doing in the bathroom?"

"No, no, no..." she chided "He was in the pasture! We use the bathtubs as feeders! Please hurry; I don't know how long he has been upside-down!"

"On my way" I stated as I stuffed my feet back into my boots and headed for the door. I bolted for the truck while wiggling into my coveralls. Now my brain was in high gear!

Driving to emergency calls affords me time to formulate a plan of attack. I call this my windshield time. Dark was coming on fast and I had a 35 minute drive to figure this one out. I had asked how long she thought he had been stuck, and she said that she had no way of knowing since she had been gone all day. Because of the weight of a horse, they do not stay lying down for long stretches of time. The sheer weight of their bodies will compress the blood vessels that supply muscle tissue resulting in a potentially fatal condition known as myositis. The average adult horse weighs in at around 450kg or close to 1000 pounds. Needless to say, just lifting him out of the tub was not going to happen.

My first idea was to use a winch, rope his legs and just pull him and the tub over. I phoned three people whom I knew had winches installed on their trucks and could get there quickly, but not one of them was available! Crap!

Desperate times calls for desperate measures. I thought, call the fire department! In this instance, a bit of brawn may be just what the Dr. ordered! I knew that the fire station was less than an eighth of a mile from the location of the horse, so I decided that I would first assess the situation and call them if I felt that they had access to assist. I arrived and drove my truck directly to Zevo by following the conga line of numerous people frantically waving me in the right

direction.

He was, without a doubt, STUCK. Wedged upside-down, all four feet straight up in the air with his head and neck squished at an odd angle between his front legs. I should have taken a photo, but pulling out my camera was not my first thought. Popping the hood of my truck and gathering all the bits to my tire jack was my first thought. I put the parts together and belly crawled, G.I. style, perpendicular to the bathtub. I was worried that if I startled him he might start struggling and either hurt himself, or clock me in the head with a hoof. I do have a tiny bit of self-preservation instinct! When I got close to the bathtub, I quickly dug with my hands in the dirt and wedged the tire jack under the bottom of the cast iron tub. With less than ten pumps on the handle, over it went and out popped one tired, grateful horse! He stood up right away, a bit wobbly at first. I scooted back to the rig and got him some anti-inflammatories and an intravenous catheter. I performed a sterile prep on his jugular vein, placed the catheter and after giving him the drugs, started him on fluids. Obviously he had no access to water while he was upside down and needed to be rehydrated. The owner and I stood chatting in the night as Zevo regained his composure.

“So, Miss Lori, how do you think he managed to get himself into such a pickle?”

She pondered a few moments and replied thoughtfully. “The others must have jostled him and knocked him off balance when they were trying to get to the feed. He is quite old and a bit dottery, poor old guy.”

“My suggestion is to feed him separately from the others from now on.” I replied in my best doctor voice.

“I am one step ahead of you, Doc. I think he deserves to have his very own pasture and feeder. Thanks for saving the day, yet again. What made you think of the tire jack anyway?”

“I am not sure” I replied, “but it is the closest thing I have to the Jaws of Life and it was quicker than waiting for the fire department to come!”

“I like the MacGyver side of you” she said with a big grin!

***From the ever growing adventures of a continuously humbled equine veterinarian: Dr. Dana Westerman***

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## Rain, Ravines, & Patient Animals



*Practicing skills like prepping a horse for a vertical lift in a safe and supportive environment makes for a better and faster rescue in the field. Interested in learning more? We are holding a one-day [Technical Large Animal Rescue class](#) on June 21.*

Our April WASART Technical Rescue Training was again held at Lord Hill Park in Snohomish County. Because the park is a reclaimed quarry it offers a variety of terrain and steep gradients from which to stage a challenge. The scenario for this training was the rescue of a small 600 lb. horse stranded at the bottom of a 50’-60’ ravine. This scenario’s emphasis combined maintaining impeccable safety standards while working with a sense of urgency and casting members, or role playing, in specific duty positions during the exercise. The team set up two high directional 6:1 mainline mirror systems and included



the use of our large animal rescue glide, an essential tool for large animal extractions. Though the load in this scenario was a small horse, WASART's rescue glides are fully capable of moving a 2,000 lb. draft horse.

May's Technical Rescue Training was held in Enumclaw, WA on Sunday, May 18. The focus for this training shifted from building rope systems for lifts and lowers, as we do with regularity, to strengthening the rigging systems necessary when using some of our more specialized support equipment. This included rigging and hands-on practice for the rescue glide, the Strobe guide, and the training emphasized techniques for large and small animals using lifts, drags, rolls and confined space extrication. Though this particular practice was designed to meet the needs of our Technical Rescue Team many of these techniques are invaluable to those of us who own horses and livestock. To meet this need WASART will offer a one-day [Technical Large Animal Rescue class](#) open to members and non-members. Click the link or see below for details.

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## Training

### June 7: Transport



While targeted towards WASART members who have a horse or cattle trailer or who wish to learn how to tow the WASART trailers, this training has a lot to offer even if you don't have a rig. Instructors will give background in the different types of trailers, towing

setups, as well as cover potential safety issues involved in towing an animal trailer.

Students will then be instructed in spotter operations including how to support and direct someone who is backing up a trailer. A hands-on session will follow the classroom portion, where students will learn how to safety check a trailer setup as well as practice driving and backing up a variety of trailer rigs. Transport Training is open to both WASART members and the general public (adults only, please).

Registrar: [registrar@washingtontart.org](mailto:registrar@washingtontart.org)

General Information: [training@washingtontart.org](mailto:training@washingtontart.org)

When Sat Jun 7, 2014 8:30am – 5pm

Cumberland Fire Station

Where 35421 Veazie-Cumberland Road  
Enumclaw, WA, 98022 ([map](#))

Cost \$30 (\$55 for non-members)

Sign up [Transport Registration Form](#)

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## Training

### June 21: Technical Large Animal Rescue Training (TLAR)



Technical Large Animal Rescue Awareness training will introduce the concepts and techniques of rescuing animals in distress. Hands-on practice with

live animals and manikins will help to increase proficiency. Use of readily available equipment such as rope, webbing and tarps to help facilitate rescues will be emphasized in addition to demonstrations with specialized rescue equipment. Complete the registration form and send to the Registrar.

Registrar: [registrar@washingtonsart.org](mailto:registrar@washingtonsart.org)

General Information: [training@washingtonsart.org](mailto:training@washingtonsart.org)

More details:

When Sat Jun 21, 2014 8:30am – 5pm

Cumberland Fire Station

Where 35421 Veazie-Cumberland Road  
Enumclaw, WA, 98022 ([map](#))

Cost \$30 (\$55 for non-members)

Sign up [TLAR Awareness Registration Form](#)

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