

Subscribe

Share ▾

Past Issues

Translate ▾

RSS 

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

- [Vote of Confidence](#)
- [Pepper, a Gelding Down](#)
- [Facing the Reality of Rescue](#)
- [Llama Drama](#)
- [Welcome, Joey: the Articulated Horse Gets a New Name](#)
- [First One-Day Core Training Completed](#)
- [Field Response](#)

Vote of Confidence



WASART demonstrates rescue techniques at a previous Washington State Search and Rescue Conference.

In a large animal rescue, much of the more expensive equipment needs to be replaced for safety reasons.

It's only possible because of you.

Donate

General Meetings

June 10, 2015

Location TBD

The next General Membership Meeting will be held from **7 pm - 9 pm**. The first hour is spent on

I'm excited this month about WASART's inclusion as a full voting member of the Washington State Search and Rescue Volunteer Advisory Council (SARVAC). SARVAC is an umbrella organization with representatives from individual counties' Search and Rescue organizations, WASART and the State Emergency Management Division. SARVAC's President sits on the Washington State Emergency Management Council, which advises the Governor on issues of emergency preparedness and response.

Many of our members are also active SAR participants. WASART has been an auxiliary member of SARVAC since 2012, but the Council's bylaws only

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

April 25, 2015

[Field Response Training](#)

42829 244th Ave SE
Enumclaw, WA 98022

May 30, 2015

[Transport Training](#)

Enumclaw Expo Center
45224 284th Ave SE
Enumclaw, WA 98022

June 27, 2015

[Technical Animal Rescue \(Awareness\)](#)

Cumberland Fire Station
35420 Veazie-Cumberland Road
Enumclaw, WA 98022

Upcoming events

WASART will have booths at:

[Maywood Middle School's](#)
Emergency Preparedness Fair
14490 168th Ave SE
Renton, WA 98059

March 25 from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

[West Pierce Fire & Rescue](#)
[Disaster Prep. Day](#)

Lakewood YMCA
9715 Lakewood Drive SW
Lakewood, WA 98499

April 25 from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00

granted voting authority to each county's SAR representative to the Council. At the March meeting, the bylaws were amended to allow voting participation by other organizations whose mission is emergency response, subject to approval by the SARVAC members. WASART was then nominated and unanimously approved to full voting membership, the only non-SAR organization so authorized. It's a real privilege and honor to be fully accepted by the state's SAR representatives, and further confirms our strong working relationship with Search and Rescue.

SARVAC meets bimonthly in Ellensburg. The Council partners with the host county's Sheriff's Office and the volunteer Search and Rescue units in that county to organize one of the premier search and rescue events in our country, the [Washington State Search and Rescue Conference](#), or SARCON. Individual county SAR organizations rotate the direct responsibility for planning and organizing the Conference, which this year will be held in King County, at the Girl Scout Camp River Ranch in Carnation. WASART is again participating in the planning of the Conference, and will again be making a presentation on animal rescue techniques. This will be the fifth consecutive year that we have been SARCON participants.

Bill Daugaard
President

Pepper, a Gelding Down

p.m.

[WA State Search & Rescue Conference, 2015](#)

May 15-17, 2015

Girl Scout Camp River Ranch
Carnation, WA

Auburn's **Petpalooza 2015**,
Saturday, **May 16** from 10:00
a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

For more info:

<http://www.auburnwa.gov/events>

[The Humane Society's 25th Annual Dog-A-Thon](#)

Fort Steilacoom Park
Lakewood, WA

Saturday, **July 25** from 9:00
a.m. - 5:00 p.m

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.



Member Ken H. comforts Pepper as he manages the horse's head to keep the gelding from attempting to get up.

We received a call for assistance on March 17th for a horse down in a pasture and unable to get up. While horses will often lay down, it can be dangerous for them to be off their feet for long periods of time and also a sign of more serious issues. Pepper, a 28 year old Appaloosa gelding, needed help getting up and back to his shelter to recuperate from a leg injury. We arrived and shortly thereafter he was up but unable to put any weight on his left hind leg. Pepper tried but couldn't manage to stay on his feet, so the team planned to place him on the Rescue Glide, move him to a nearby shelter, and use the Becker sling to raise him. This specialized sling has a nice amount of padding to keep him comfortable once he was raised to his feet again.

While the team set up a raise system in the shelter and readied the Becker sling, one of our member veterinarians discussed the possible cause of Pepper's issue with the owners. She was advised that



Pepper had been kicked the day before and had been examined by Pepper's regular veterinarian. Today, it appeared as if the injury was more severe than first thought. It's always difficult to decide to humanely euthanize, but in the case of some injuries, it's the most compassionate decision to make. Pepper's owners made that difficult choice and called their vet who helped Pepper over the Rainbow Bridge. Our hearts are with them and their loss.

Guest Column by Ellen Felsenthal

Facing the Reality of Rescue



Guest columnist Ellen Felsenthal is the founder and main force behind [New Moon Goat Farm Rescue & Sanctuary](#). Her extensive experience in rescue makes her ideal to write on the more difficult side of rescue work for us. Photo by [Julie Austin Photography](#), used with permission.

If you are reading this, you are already concerned about animal welfare. You are actively engaged in

the rescue community. And you've likely seen, first hand, how difficult this work can be. There are amazing rescues, celebrations of lives saved, and tears when an animal is beyond our help. This column is about the most challenging parts of this work, the parts that most people don't think about, or want to experience. My name is Ellen Felsenthal. I am the founder of [New Moon Farm Goat Rescue & Sanctuary](#). I think a bit of background will help you all understand where I am coming from. I have been involved in animal rescue for over 25 years. It started with cats and dogs, shifted to horses, and now is focused mainly on goats and sheep. I have worked with rescue on many levels: from large-scale, formal organizations to small, local shelters, from individuals who work independently to assisting Animal Control agencies with large-scale seizures. Since creating New Moon Farm in 1998, I have worked with over 1500 rescued animals. Not all of them have made it.

One of the hardest parts of running a rescue is knowing when to let go. Over the years it has become very clear to me that we can't save them all. Though of course every life matters, for some, humane euthanasia is the right decision. When I first started on this path, I would fight determinedly for every single life. I would spare no expense: of money, of time, of emotional pain. And I don't think I always made the right decisions. There are times when saying goodbye is the right choice - for the animal and for the caretaker. With so many animals needing help, I have learned to focus my energies on those that have a chance at a high quality of life; those that can recover, and truly enjoy a life with people who love and care for them. That means that sometimes, in acting for the animal's highest good, I make choices that others don't understand. Choices that may seem cold-hearted, or too pragmatic. For me, these choices are anything but cold-hearted - they are rational decisions made with deep compassion.

I believe strongly that when an animal is in chronic pain, that can't be controlled with medication or

supplements, it is time to say goodbye. Sure, they might still wag their tails when they see me – they still love me. Sure, they might still eat with gusto – they are still working to keep their bodies going. Sure, they might sometimes have a twinkle in their eye, when they are not dulled with pain. But when I step back, and try to remove my own emotions from the equation, and evaluate their overall quality of life, it becomes clear. I want them to have a peaceful end, before the pain is unbearable, before they are scared and worried; a quiet death, surrounded by compassion and respect. Before a horse falls in a pasture and can't get up, and spends the day terrified and panicking, waiting for someone to come home and find him. Before a goat has another seizure in the pasture, and is down in the rain all day, waiting for someone to notice her. Before a dog can't get up to go out, and has to deal with the humiliation of urinating in the house.

I also believe that humane euthanasia is often the best option for an animal that can never be content and happy living with people. In our world, animals have to interact with people. For those that are terrified of people, or irreparably aggressive towards people (even after time and training), I believe that letting them go is the right choice. These animals will never be truly content, and they are occupying a space in a (usually) overcrowded shelter, which could be used by an animal with a good chance at finding a home. At my farm, we have several animals that are "sanctuary residents," because they are too anti-social to ever find a home. We have the facility and ability to still care for them, but many shelters don't have this option. I say let them go. Make space for those with a chance, who are not miserable, and a liability. I know that many will think this is harsh, callous. But it is the reality of this work. We, as caretakers, have to make the hard decisions.

I have learned to listen to the animals. To pay careful attention to any changes in their behavior; I watch how they interact with the herd, how they interact with people, how they move, the expression in their eyes.

Almost always, the animal lets me know when they are ready to let go. I believe that humane euthanasia is one of the greatest gifts we can offer a suffering animal, and it is a great honor to help an animal pass on. It is never an easy choice, and I mourn every death. I celebrate the rescues, the rehabilitations, the adoptions; I cry for the losses. I accept that this is part of the responsibility I have taken on; to always do what is best for the animal, no matter how much it hurts.

Guest Column from Gary Kaufman

Llama Drama



Gary Kaufman is the owner of [Roads End Llamas](#) and WASART's go-to guy for llama expertise. He was kind enough to weigh in on the llama video recently making the rounds on the news and social media. You can see Gary in action in [this video](#).

Not that long ago in real world vs. social media time, two llamas took the news media, and a whole bunch of people, for what everyone but the llamas called "[the llama drama](#)". This wasn't their first outing to a nursing facility or other public venues to share the magic animals bring into peoples' lives. The owners had trained their llamas, and had many years of experience with llamas. Llama folks jokingly say among themselves that "spit happens". And in this situation it did.

Doesn't matter what happened, but something scared the llamas – scared them enough that, like almost all animals, fear translated immediately into the first instinct of survival – flight! From there a two hour chase began, and that is where the lessons learned need to begin. And it really isn't about llamas, but about all animals caught up in flight/fear response and what can/should be done to regain control of the animal and the situation and to ensure the safety of all involved. This is not an accusation against the very large number of well meaning people, nor is it a criticism of the owners. All about lessons learned from the observations during the footage I've seen.

First rule...never put yourself in harm's way or allow others to do so. No problem; these two llamas had no interest in hurting anyone, and in fact their focus was on going out of their way to avoid humans. Problem as observed is that none of the people jumping in to help understood the species of animal they were trying to contain.

Second rule...identify the context that triggered the event either by observing the animal or asking questions. Put what you see in context as well. In this case, llamas had halters on, llamas had lead ropes attached to halters....conclusion should have been these animals WERE being handled somehow by someone and were at the absolute very least accustomed to being handled by people. You see a horse galloping across the fairgrounds bridle, reins, saddle . . . context is everything. Same thing only in the middle of a well known riding trail miles from the trail head. . . context. Several animals are out on Farmer Brown's property wandering aimlessly outside an open gate. . . context.

Third rule. . . make a plan once you think you have the context. And everything you do needs to minimize the need to escalate any tensions, animal and human (the helicopter and live broadcasts and smart phones with news apps did not help). That means someone needs to be in charge; preferably someone who understands the basics of how to handle the species.

With these animals, the overly alert and tense position of their tails, the rock solid stance before reacting to human actions, their ducking and twisting as lassos were attempted (we'll touch on that later) all indicated full blown escalating fear.

Fourth rule...TAKE YOUR TIME. Well in this case it took two hours to round up two animals. Put in perspective, not all that long ago all 20 of our female llamas walked out a gate that yours truly left open and ran off in a wondrous free-for-all exploration in four different directions. Within ONE HOUR I had all of them in containment areas with no assistance. Rules two and three and four all came into play.

Now back to lassos....they are for cowboys on horseback. Forget for a minute there are few things more dangerous than lassoing a thin necked llama running away. What saved the day for the llamas was their training. . . they were caught, they recognized they were caught, they stopped running. Rule number one – never put yourself or allow someone else to put themselves in harm's way. IF that llama had not stopped once lassoed, the guy standing in the back of the truck WOULD have done an instant face plant in the asphalt. Those on the ground MAY have easily encountered the same experience. If it had been a horse, or a cow. . . one step in any direction would have been disastrous.

Although the world of social media had a grand time with great humor about the situation, and some folk are still milking this for a gag line on a slow news day, shortest version from my observations is this had a positive outcome by pure shear dumb amazing luck.

I suppose I am preaching to the choir with the folks who are smart enough to read the WASART newsletter, but in this case....USE THE LESSONS ya'll are learning at all the classes you have or will or should take, and your life and the life of the animals you are working to save will have a much better chance of success. Ya'll have the most amazing track

record in awful situations. . .

Welcome, Joey: the Articulated Horse Gets a New Name



The original Joey, left, and his buddy Miss Catch, another rescue, await their dinner. Photo courtesy of Victoria Greiner and Dr. Shelton of Lake Chelan Veterinary Hospital. ([Facebook](#), [website](#))

Earlier this month, we held an auction for the naming rights for our new articulated horse. We were hoping someone would like to honor a relative or their own animal by winning the auction, and we weren't disappointed.

The winner of the auction is Victoria Greiner and her husband Dr. Shelton of [Lake Chelan Veterinary Hospital](#). We originally met Dr. Shelton and his staff during the Carlton Complex Fires when they stopped by the shelter WASART was running at the Chelan High School to offer any assistance burned animals might need. Just after their visit, someone brought in [Alta](#), the kitty that was badly burned during the fires. Dr. Shelton, Greiner, and the hospital's staff took in Alta, and nursed her back to health. (She even has [her own Facebook page](#).)

The name Greiner and Dr. Shelton chose for the horse is "Joey". Greiner explains why:

"Doc and I decided this spring to honour our favourite horse Joey and set the bid. So here's to Joey and WASART! Joey was adopted by Doc and I during his last year of vet school. He was a highly papered thoroughbred (great grandson of "Doc Bar", full name "Joe Hancock Bar") brought to WSU for (of all things) sarcoids. Cure was to burn them off---he being a straight black horse---hair grew in white, destroying his chance of stud fee. Hence his owner donated him to WSU...and times were tough for WSU in the mid 70's so he was destined to be "destroyed". We ended up with him as Joey only knew the love of the vet students who had spent 24/7 with him (Doc included). Took him home and he promptly tried to crawl in the bathroom window cause he missed his vet students! He lived to 36 years old with Doc and myself; always a love---like a big ol' black lab! He'd rest his head on your shoulder for a nose scratch any time you fed him and truthfully, could never figure out why anyone was on his back wanted to ride him...black lab syndrome...he was truly the best pasture ornament! We miss him daily and honour him through WASART!"

We're very happy to have Joey's legacy as the winning name for our articulated horse. Many thanks to those who participated, and to Victoria Greiner and Dr. Shelton for choosing to honor Joey in this way.



Joey meets Blikk, the Norwegian Fjord.

First One-Day Core Training Completed



The most dramatic segment of Core Training is always the fire safety segment, where students get to practice using a fire extinguisher to put out a fire.

The first of two one-day WASART Core trainings was held on March 7, 2015. This class is mandatory for all WASART members who wish to deploy into the field to rescue animals in life threatening situations.

The 21 WASART members and one non-WASART member were supported by nine WASART instructors and helpers who ensured that the attendees learned the basics of Ways to be involved in WASART, Basic Communications, Legal Issues, Deployment Requirements, Deployment Operations, etc. Through the generosity of the City of Snoqualmie Fire Department, the class was held in the comfort of the classroom at its headquarters in Snoqualmie, WA. The Fire Safety and Suppression class in which hands-on fire extinguisher training was involved was taught by two members of the Snoqualmie Fire Department and, yet again, was determined to be the most popular of all the segments offered.

WASART's Training Curriculum has undergone extensive revision so that, effective January 1, 2015, all two-day courses, such as Core which was offered once annually, are now offered twice annually and are a combination of on-line classes and one-day in-classroom instruction. The next Core class is scheduled for August 30th and will be held in Redmond, WA. More information on the 2015 training regimen can be found on the Calendar on WASART's website and in upcoming monthly newsletters, the WASART NEWS.



A big thanks to the Snoqualmie Fire Department for letting us hold the class at their facility and for their great leadership during the fire safety segment.

Field Response

UPCOMING TRAINING



FIELD RESPONSE **April 25, 2015 • 8-5**

Hands-on learning with small & large animals
Trailer loading & animal assessment
Rope rigging for rescue awareness
And more!

LOCATION

Triple C Pleasure Horses
42829 244th Avenue Southeast
Enumclaw, WA 98022

REGISTER

<http://bit.ly/WASART2015>

\$65 members (\$32.50 recertifying)

\$95* general public

*If joining within 90 days of this class,
\$30 of this fee goes toward annual dues



washingtonsart.org • WASART is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization focused on animal-related disaster response needs in the State of Washington.

Sat Apr 25, 2015

Field Response training is geared towards animal

rescue and evacuation in emergency situations. The next Field Response training date is September 20, 2015.

The training consists of on-line classes and on-site training. Registrants must complete the on-line segments and the on-site training to be credentialed in Field Response. Links to the on-line segments will be provided after we receive registration and payment for the in-classroom training; there will not be an additional cost for the on-line instruction. The on-site training contains extensive animal handling.

To register online, complete this form:

<http://bit.ly/WASART2015>

If you prefer to download, print, and send via email or mail, click the following link and follow instructions on the form: <http://bit.ly/Download-n-Print-RegistrationForm>

For more information, contact
registrar@washingtonsart.org.

[Register online](#) for Core. Questions about the training program? Check out the [training curriculum](#) or contact the [registrar](#). Core is currently offered twice annually, and the next training date is August 30, 2015.

When: April 25, 2015

Class: 8-5, with sign-in at 7:30 a.m.

Where: 42829 244th Ave SE
Enumclaw, WA 98022

Tuition: \$65.00 for members; 32.50 for recertifying WASART members, \$95.00 for non-members

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 © 2015 Washington State Animal Response Team (WASART), All rights reserved.
[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

MailChimp.