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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

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Teaming Up with the AKC to Save Lives in Disasters



A trailer dedicated only to sheltering will help WASART responds faster and with all the supplies we'll need to set up and run an emergency shelter during a disaster. We're honored the AKC has chosen us to receive this trailer. (File photo -- dog courtesy of [Valhalla Canine Rescue](#), who graciously lets us borrow adoptable dogs for our trainings. The actual trailer is built to order.)

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](#)

As summer approaches and the threat of wildfires grows, it behooves residents of grasslands and timberland areas to think carefully about steps they can take to mitigate the fire threat, and to make their plans to evacuate themselves and their animals if the worst happens. The article below provides valuable links for help in planning and preparing for wildfires. We may be inclined to think that wildfires are

June 10, 2015

[Shoreline Fire Department](#)

Station 61

17525 Aurora Avenue North
Shoreline, WA 98133

The next General Membership Meeting will be held 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

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 a booth at:

[Snohomish K9 Crimewatch
Kickoff](#)

Saturday, **June 20** from
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Snohomish Boys & Girls
Club
402 2nd Street

primarily a threat to Eastern Washington, but each year typically sees fires erupt west of the Cascades, as well. The mild winter and warming temperatures only make the threat greater.

With the threat of wildfires in mind, and last year's long deployment to establish emergency shelters in Chelan and Okanogan Counties as a result of the Carlton Complex fire fresh in our memories, WASART has teamed with a number of Western Washington kennel clubs to apply for one of the American Kennel Club's Reunite program disaster sheltering trailers. Under this great program, nonprofits and local governments can team with AKC member clubs, who pledge funds to underwrite 50% of the trailer's cost, to apply for a 16' cargo trailer fully equipped to establish and operate an emergency shelter for up to 50 companion animals.

Such a trailer would have been a huge asset in last year's wildfire deployment, and we are delighted to learn that our application has been approved! This is a major enhancement of our capabilities, and we are indebted to Don Hanson, of the [Seattle Kennel Club](#), for his leadership in organizing the fund raising effort needed to make this happen.

Bill Daugaard
President

Wildfire Season is Now



Snohomish, WA 98290

Marysville [Poochapalooza](#)

Saturday, **July 11, 2015**

10 a.m.-4 p.m.

New location! Asbery Field
@ Totem Middle School,
4th and Alder Ave. in
downtown Marysville
[\[directions and info\]](#)

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

Saturday, **July 25** from 9:00

AM – 5:00 PM

Fort Steilacoom Park,
Lakewood, WA

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.



Blackened tree skeletons remain after the fires swept through this hillside just outside of Pateros, WA. The land is coming back as residents brace for this year's season.

Wildfire Season officially began on April 15 this past month and summer fire rules are already in effect. Ever widening drought conditions make this year's predictions for wildfires especially ominous. Hotter and drier weather and a low snowpack make fire prevention and fire preparedness an imperative for all counties in the state of Washington. Residents, growers, ranchers, and large animal owners in the areas most prone to wildfires should take particular care to plan for worst case possibilities. Have a plan for evacuation for you and for your animals. There is much we can do to mitigate and plan for this likelihood. WASART recommends the following links to provide you with comprehensive information to get ready for a hot summer:

Washington State Department of Natural Resources

<http://www.dnr.wa.gov>

FEMA, How to Prepare for a Wildfire

http://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1409003859391-0e8ad1ed42c129f11fbc23d008d1ee85/how_to_prepare_wildfire_033014_508.pdf

The American Red Cross

<http://www.redcross.org/prepare/disaster/wildfire>

WASART Helps Okanogan Prepare for Future Disaster with Free Sheltering Training



Volunteers await assignments during the sheltering exercise of the training. Check out more photos on [our Facebook album](#).

In July 2014, the Carlton Complex Fire damaged and displaced a large number of people in Okanogan and Chelan Counties. Washington State had not dealt with a wildland fire this extensive; the fire was the biggest in state history. WASART responded first to the Red Cross asking for help setting up and running an emergency animal shelter in Chelan County. We then were asked to similarly help out in Okanogan County.

In emergency management, good responders will take lessons learned and improve on them for the next disaster. In recognition of the County's needs, WASART worked with Okanogan County in scheduling a training for volunteers and the County's lone Animal Control Officer, Dave Yarnell, to help prepare for future fires.

This Emergency Animal Sheltering training, which took place on April 18-19, 2015 and was free to attendees thanks to donations WASART received during our fire response, was open to volunteers from both Okanogan and surrounding counties. We met a really great team made up of volunteers from a number of animal rescues in Okanogan County. Attendees included representatives from Chelan County and Okanogan County Emergency Management and one from a Ferry County organization.

Okanogan is not a wealthy county. Animal Control Officer Yarnell has been creative with limited resources by bringing together these outstanding and dedicated volunteers and doing his best to help his county prepare for the future. If you donated during the fires, this is your gift at work. Thank you for helping everyone involved prepare to help animals during emergencies in Okanogan and Chelan Counties.

A big thanks to attending rescues: [N.O. Paws Left Behind](#) (who also let us borrow some of the wonderful up-for-adoption dogs in their care for practice), [The Nourishing Hand](#) (who helped care for animals last year with us), [Forget Me Not Animal Shelter of Ferry](#)

[County](#), [OK Snip](#), and [Animal Foster Care Cat Shelter](#) (who also let us borrow some cats and help demo handling techniques.)

If you want to keep up with Deputy Yarnell's activities in Okanogan, he can be found at [Deputy Yarnell's Facebook page](#).

WASART members donated 4,309 miles and 609.25 hours valued at \$27.54/hour = \$16,778.75 to this venture.

New Location & Format Drive April's Field Response



Midnight gets cautioned about playing (again) with the equipment. We're grateful to animals owners like Midnight's who trust us with their animals so we can sharpen our handling skills. Check out the rest of the

photos in [our Facebook album](#).

Our Spring WASART Field Response Training was held on April 25, at Triple C Pleasure Horses in Enumclaw, WA. Field Response Training is designed to give the responder the basic skills and knowledge needed to assist animals in a variety of rescue training scenarios.

The event was well attended with 16 members and 2 non-members participating in the training. All sessions were taught by veteran WASART members and included a demonstration featuring our Technical Rope Team. Because our members come from both urban and agricultural backgrounds we offer the opportunity to work hands on with a variety of species, large and small. Field Response has become one of our most popular trainings because we focus heavily on animal handling and animal safety sessions. This training included horses, cattle, llamas, goats, sheep, rabbits, chickens, ducks, and dogs.

The next Field Response training is scheduled for September, 20, 2015 in Buckley, WA.

We would like to thank [Triple C Pleasure Horses](#) for hosting us, as well as Stevie Jacobson, and Gary Kaufman from [Roads End Llamas](#), [Valhalla Canine Rescue](#), Cathy Reaney, and everyone who provided critters for the training.



The dog pictured here, Rudy, came to Valhalla Canine Rescue as an abuse case. Less than a year old, he had a number of fractures, both (poorly) healed and fresh. He's lost most of his teeth as well. In spite of all this, he kindly let us learn from him without complaint so he got extra scratches. A big thanks to [Valhalla](#) for letting us meet and work with Rudy.

Helping Communities Prepare at Kirkland's CERT Training



Part of WASART's mission is education and disaster prep, including attending community meetings like this one.

The Community Emergency Response Team is a concept utilized for the purpose of educating communities on the basics of disaster response and preparation. The CERT structure and curriculum was originally designed by the Los Angeles Fire Department in 1985 and was eventually adopted on the national level. CERT trainings are free of charge and are held throughout the state of Washington.

In the event of a major disaster, such as an earthquake or wildfire, those directly affected by the disaster will not have immediate access to trained responders; learning how to help ourselves, and our neighbors, is tantamount. The CERT training is usually taught over 7 weeks with one 2 ½ session per week. The curriculum is comprehensive and covers everything from Incident Command communications, and fire safety, to how to safely move debris in order to free a trapped human or animal. WASART highly recommends CERT training to everyone and we recommend it to our own volunteers. WASART often participates in these trainings and, most recently, did so for the City of Kirkland, WA.

On Saturday, May 16, 3 members of WASART presented the CERT Animal Response I & II class for the CERT group in Kirkland, WA. This group invites WASART annually to present the CERT course as well as some basic animal handling. We would like to thank Molly (with her dogs Tilly and Baxter), Elise and

Denise (with her dog Jazz) for sharing their expertise with the CERT of Kirkland. The class was full with an attendance of 30 people. Elise discussed animal behavior, and animal preparedness. Molly presented Module II which covers the role of CERT regarding animals and reviews the skills necessary when handling animals in disasters. Tilly, Baxter and Jazz were excellent ambassadors allowing for demonstration of basic animal behavior (shy, friendly, submissive, etc), slip leads, creative muzzle options, i.e. bandanna, paper cup and coffee sleeve, and carrying and restraint. Participants were invited and encouraged to attend upcoming WASART trainings. WASART always enjoys presenting this class and we make ourselves available to CERT groups in our area.

For further information about CERT training in your area contact:

<http://www.fema.gov/community-emergency-response-teams>

Resisting Cute Overload at Petpalooza



Carol staffs the WASART booth at Auburn's Petpalooza.

WASART was a participant at the 8th annual City of Auburn's Petpalooza on May 16. This is the fifth year that WASART has staffed a booth at this wildly popular and animal-focused event.

The event had over 160 vendors and thousands of people attended. Many brought their animal companions which included dogs, cats, ferrets, birds and even a few reptiles. The WASART tent was visited by more than 300 attendees who wanted information about planning for pets during disasters. Some people had nothing planned while others wanted to make sure they had planned correctly. Fifteen people provided contact information so they could find out more about joining or participating in training.

Several rescue groups were interested in training and/or joining forces with WASART for disaster response. Others, who are planning events across the state, inquired into WASART's interest in

participating in their event. The WASART members who participated thought the event was a success.



Even cats got in on the action at the event.

A-Frame Gets an "A" from the Technical Rescue Team



Joey demonstrates the bipod A-frame during practice.

This month, WASART took delivery of bipod A-frame that will make rescues both safer and easier, and will also be very helpful when lifting cast horses and other livestock.

The A-frame consists of aluminum sections that can be easily carried and assembled where it's needed most. We found it to be easy to learn and use as well -- our first training with it had a very low learning curve, and the team had no trouble setting up and using it for the first time. We demonstrated it a week later at the Washington State Search and Rescue Conference, where its height of almost 20 feet attracted the notice of many of the participants.

The A-frame was developed by Dr. Kathleen Becker, a veterinarian who is also an engineer. Dr. Becker is also the inventor of the Becker sling, which we use whenever the situation allows as it combines both

strength and safety while keeping the comfort of the animal in mind. While developing the A-frame, Dr. Becker also made her own boring tool, as the ones available to her were not large enough.

The A-frame we received was the second in production and is the only one in use on the west side of the country.

You can read more about the A-frame, Becker sling, and other rescue equipment Dr. Becker makes on her page, [Häst Large Animal Rescue Equipment](#) or [her company's Facebook page](#).

Demos Draw a Professional Crowd at Search & Rescue Conference



WASART attended the [2015 Washington Search and Rescue Conference \(SARCON\)](#) to demo new skills and equipment, and learn from the agencies we often work with.

About 350 people attended the conference. Attendees were mostly from Washington State, though some traveled from as far away as Iceland. They attended demos and classes on topics such as search theory, liability management, and search dog tracking and problem solving, and yoga for the rescuer.

WASART demonstrated animal rescue techniques using the new horse mannequin Joey and the rescue

glide, use of the A-frame, and emergency harnesses and muzzles for dogs. We also answered questions from the attendees who are often put in a position to deal with animal issues but haven't had in-depth training. WASART also participated in an open-to-the-public open house on Saturday between 9 am and 12:30 pm.

SARCON is held in a different county every year, and this year it was held in King County, at Remlinger Farms in Carnation. The host county puts together a planning committee of about 15 search and rescue members, who, in addition to their regular volunteer and regular life duties, spend almost a year scouting locations, putting together a schedule, website, advertising, and a long list of other tasks that are necessary but easily overlooked.

The 2016 SAR Conference is already scheduled for May 20-22nd and will be hosted by Cowlitz County in Longview, WA.

Check out photos from the event on [our Facebook album](#) or [searching by #wasarcon](#) on Twitter.



A search dog shows her best side during the Open House on Saturday morning.

Working Together, Goldendale Edition



Goldendale, WA. [Photo by Bernt Rostad](#), CC licensed, no alterations made.

While WASART members are trained to evacuate and transport animals from life-threatening situations, it is not often that we are called upon to solely transport animals from one location to another. But that is what happened in early May when a rescue organization in Goldendale, WA asked for this assistance. [Dogs of the Gorge](#) does amazing work in rescuing, providing medical care and re-homing animals in Klickitat County and they do it on an excruciatingly tight budget. This county does not have an Animal Control Officer so the Sheriff's Department turned to them when the Sheriff needed to seize over 100 dogs, cats, rats, pigs, goats, sheep, llamas, ducks, ducklings and chickens from a local family.

The animals were rounded up and transported to the local fairgrounds by the Sheriff and his two deputies and were assisted by a group of approximately 20 volunteers who, independently or through association with different animal rescue groups, are involved in assisting animals in distressful situations. However, several days later after the majority of the animals were retrieved by the various animal rescue groups, 3 llamas, 3 goats, 3 sheep and about 21 rabbits remained unclaimed.

That's when WASART was called. Two WASART teams, driving their personal trucks and horse trailers, volunteered to drive to Goldendale, WA and transport the remaining animals to [Pasado's Safe Haven](#) in Sultan, WA where they would be re-

distributed to other rescue organizations.

The transport went off without a hitch and Pasado's helpful staff was waiting to help unload them all when the WASART teams arrived at 7:30 p.m. that evening. The WASART teams came from McKenna (Diane), Sammamish (Susann), Kirkland (Dave M.) and Wenatchee (Julie S.) and contributed a total of 58 hours and 1,251 miles to assist a fellow rescue organization in need...and we were very pleased to be able to do so. Dana and Brad were very disappointed that they couldn't also accompany the teams but with a driver and sidekick for each team, more were not needed.

Some of the other animal rescue organizations that helped out were [Whatcom Humane Society](#) in Bellingham, [Rivers Wish Animal Sanctuary](#) in Spokane, [Mikeys Last Chance](#) in the Tri-Cities area, and [Columbia Animal Rescue Effort \(C.A.R.E.\)](#) in West Richland.

Transport Training Straight Ahead



TRANSPORT TRAINING

HAULING & ASSISTING VEHICLES

May 30, 2015 • 9am-4pm

LEARN AND PRACTICE
Hands-on scouting for vehicles hauling trailers, how to drive a vehicle towing a trailer, how to assist a hauling driver with hand signals, and more!

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

TUITION
\$30 for members
\$15 for recertifying members
\$60 for non-members

REGISTER & INFO
info: registrar@washingtonsart.org
register online: <http://bit.ly/WASART2015>



OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

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

Next up for training: Transport! Okay, this doesn't sound as exciting as the usual animal related stuff we do, BUT it keeps your animals safe when you are hauling them. Learn to drive, park, and back a truck with a trailer attached as well as help a driver *not* take out a light pole or put a big ol' dent in their vehicle. After this, you may be a very popular person.* Open to both members and the public.

Register online: <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.
For general information about the course, contact
training@washingtonsart.org.

*Fame and fortune not guaranteed.

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Doors open at 8:30 a.m.

Tuition: \$30.00 members
\$15.00 for WASART members recertifying
\$60.00 for non-members.

Technical Animal Rescue (TAR) Training



**TECHNICAL ANIMAL
RESCUE TRAINING**
SECURING & RESCUING ANIMALS
June 27, 2015
9am-5pm

LEARN AND PRACTICE
Learn the techniques and equipment used to rescue animals in emergency situations. Live animals and manikins will be used at this hands-on training. Open to members and the public.

LOCATION
Cumberland Fire Station
35420 Veazie-Cumberland Rd
Enumclaw, WA 98022

TUITION
\$30 for members
\$15 for recertifying members
\$60 for non-members

REGISTER & INFO
info: registrar@washingtonsart.org
register: <http://bit.ly/WASART2015>



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

Technical Animal Rescue (TAR) (Awareness) training will introduce the concepts and techniques of rescuing large and companion 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.

Register online: <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.
For general information about the course, contact
training@washingtonsart.org.

Time: 9:00 a.m . - 5:00 p.m.
Doors open at 8:30 a.m.

Tuition: \$30.00 WASART members
\$15.00 for WASART members (repeat)
\$60.00 for non-members.

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