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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](#)



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Helping Animals & Their Owners in Disasters

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From The President

Lack of Leashes No. 1 Cause of Dogs Over Cliffs



Cowboy ran off a cliff in Snohomish County. With the help of Snohomish County Search and Rescue and WASART member Dr. Dana Westerman, he was found and retrieved. He suffered broken bones requiring surgery to repair. (Photo courtesy of Dr. Dana Westerman)

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

September 14, 2016
King County Office of
Emergency Management
3511 NE 2nd
Renton, WA 98156

December 14, 2016

July proved to be busy for WASART as I write this mid-month. The rescues on July 7th on Vashon Island, July 8th in North Bend and again on July 15th in Enumclaw were followed by deployment to locate a dog on a hillside in Auburn on July 18th and another dog over a cliff in Tacoma on July 30th – 31st.

August started out with WASART providing logistical support for a dog over a cliff on Mt. Pilchuk, in Snohomish County, on August 9th. Although WASART was not asked to deploy on this rescue, we were pleased to be able to provide support for

Shoreline Fire Department,
Station 61
17525 Aurora Avenue North
Seattle, WA 98133

The General Membership Meetings are held from **7 p.m. - 9 p.m.** 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

Register at
<http://bit.ly/WASART2016>

Open House (repeat)

August 27, 2016

10:00 - noon

Pierce County Emergency
Operations Center
2501 S. 35th

Tacoma, WA 98409

[Register](#)

Fundamentals (f/k/a Core)

September 17, 2016 (repeat)

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Foothills Vet Hospital
28512 112th Street East

Buckley, WA 98321

[Register](#)

Animal Handling & Assessment

(f/k/a Field Response)

September 18, 2016 (repeat)

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Foothills Vet Hospital
28512 112th Street East

Buckley, WA 98321

[Register](#)

Communications Workshop

October 1, 2016

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Fort Steilacoom Park
8714 87th Ave SW

Lakewood, WA 98498

[Register](#)

the nearly 40 members of our Snohomish County Search & Rescue partners under the very able direction of Sgt. Danny Wikstrom, the SnoCo SAR Coordinator. These folks spent many hours in the afternoon of August 9th and into the early hours of August 10th searching for the lost dog. Initially, they had to hike up a steep mountain trail for two hours to reach the location where the dog was thought to have slipped over the cliff. The dog was eventually located and WASART's Dr. Dana Westerman of [Professional Equine Services](#) agreed to hike up the trail to provide medical assistance. After treating the dog, the SAR members carried him back down to the trailhead where Dr. Westerman rushed him to the nearest emergency veterinary hospital for treatment. He was found to be suffering from a fractured leg and broken shoulder but he is alive and getting better all the time.

That brings me to conclude with yet another plea for people not to allow their dogs to go off leash on backcountry trails. This episode is 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.

Shawndra Michell

President

Editor's note: You can follow Cowboy's recovery at the [Northwest Boxer Rescue's YouCaring website.](#)

Sheila

Annual Exercise

October 15, 2016

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Enumclaw Expo Center

45224 284th Ave SE

Enumclaw, WA 98022

[Register](#)

Upcoming events

September 10, 2016

DoggyStock Music Festival

11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Tollgate Farm Park

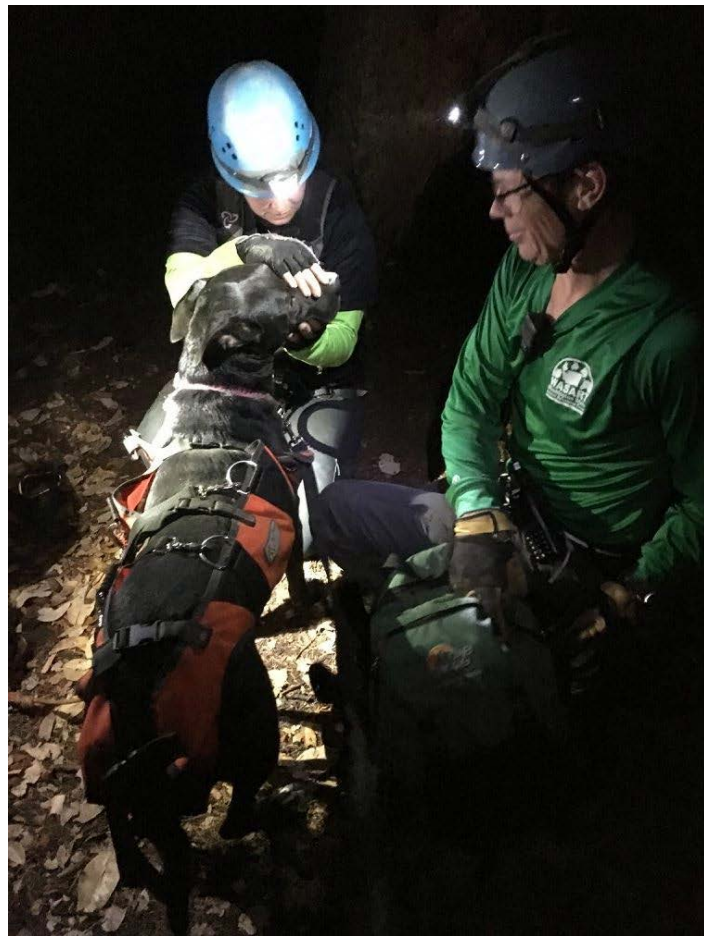
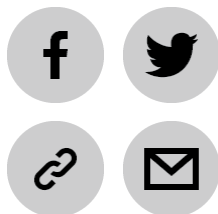
1300 West North Bend Way

North Bend, 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.



Sheila gets a check over by Dr. Ryan, who was among our responders.

We received a call for a dog over a cliff at Pt. Defiance Park in Tacoma. The dog, a 70ish lb Black Lab mix named Sheila had fallen over an abrupt drop off.

We arrived shortly before dark, it was still light enough to see where the dog had been seen going over the edge, and get a feel for our options. The drop was visually clear for part of the way, so we could get an idea of the actual terrain involved.

A police officer from the city of Ruston stopped by and showed us an unofficial set of trails that provided an opportunity to cross the terrain rather than descend it. Since this was the safest option, we changed strategy. We sent responder Aaron across with flashlights, headlamps, muzzles, and a harness.

Aaron found his way across while part of the team stayed at the access point and another part went to the original drop off with a flashlight so Aaron could find the right location to start a more intensive search. Aaron also checked the beach, which had fresh dog tracks that crossed each other and then disappeared. He walked the beach calling for Sheila. We sent responder Tammy down to join him. They continued to call for Sheila and the owner called as well as they checked the beach and the area above it.

Aaron and Tammy returned to the access point and we decided to go back to the point where Sheila had fallen and rappel down her path to see if we could find anything. Aaron and veterinarian Dr. Ryan Peters would be the responders rappelling. While Aaron and Dr. Ryan got harnesses on and gear set up, others checked over the edge with flashlights. We'd see the glints of the beer cans and occasionally something else. Aaron threw the rope bag down in preparation to descend, and he felt certain he saw eyes as it landed.

Aaron went over the edge and a trail of dust followed. It's very dry right now and that part of the hillside is exposed dirt so we waited for the dust to clear and for Aaron to get to a point where we could send Dr. Ryan after him. Aaron radioed up that he had found Sheila and she appeared to be okay.

Aaron had found her on a little outcropping just big enough for her to sit on with her legs braced in front of her. She had likely had been in that position since around 6 PM when she'd fallen and it was now about 2 AM. Dr. Ryan did a quick exam to determine if we'd need to raise Sheila or if she could walk out — which is always our preference for safety reasons. Dr. Ryan felt that Sheila, although very tired, was okay and capable of walking out.

Exhausted, she was reluctant to walk, so Aaron and Dr. Ryan had to carry her by the harness much of the way. From the trail access point, a couple of

team members went down to assist Sheila up the last steep part, which was a short scramble.

Once up, we took the harness off so Dr. Ryan could check her again. She felt Sheila was dehydrated and exhausted but otherwise okay. We were happy to escort Sheila to her owner. Both seemed very happy to see the other.

It's a Wrap! Class Prepares



Arrow, during one of 2015's rescues, makes good use of the paw wrapping technique taught at a recent class given to the public.

WASART hosted its first community based paw wrapping event last month at Renton Community Center. Attendees ranged from whippet breeders to people without pets and everything in between. And their interest for taking the class was as varied as their dogs. We tackled numerous topics over the course of the class;

1. How to keep the wrap on as a preventative measure;
2. How to read a dog's body language;
3. How to prevent the dog from getting up if wrapping its paws by yourself;
4. How hot is too hot to expose a dog's paws to the ground.

Margaret S. was the lead instructor and did a fantastic job of demonstrating the proper techniques. Michaela E. did an excellent job of introducing common sense tips that related to the class. Overall, it was a successful venture. We hope to host this annually BEFORE the hot weather is upon us so we can better educate the community on how to best care for their furry companions.

If this is something that you may be interested in volunteering for, or would like to be placed on a distribution list for further classes when scheduled, don't hesitate to contact us at fundraising@washingtonsart.org

CERT Credentialing System for King County To Recognize WASART Training



WASART has been guest training at CERT programs in Pierce and King Counties. Above, a Federal Way CERT got a chance to learn emergency muzzling, animal behavior, body

language, and how animals can be safely dealt with during a disaster. (Photo courtesy of Ray Gross, Federal Way CERT)

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is designed to train citizen responders to prepare for and respond to emergencies in their community when professional responders are not available. Local teams are often supported by 501(c)(3) nonprofit groups, and funds for basic supplies such as helmets and reflective vests are collected from nominal fees charged for the CERT Basic Training course. The eight-week course covers topics such as disaster preparedness, medical triage, scene evaluation, disaster psychology, and light search and rescue operations. While this is excellent for individuals interested in supporting their neighborhood in time of need, or supporting their local emergency response professionals, CERT training alone does not guarantee expertise in the field.

To improve emergency response efficiency and safety, CERT teams in King County are implementing a new credentialing system for first responders. This will not only ensure that emergency responders are quickly and easily identified at each level of expertise, but also that responders holding an advanced credential are eligible to assist outside of their residential community.

There will be three levels assigned to a responder. Level 3 responders have completed the FEMA CERT Basic Training course, and are eligible to respond within their neighborhoods. Level 2 responders will be emergency workers, eligible to respond within their city. Level 1 responders will be able to respond across jurisdictions within King County. Level 1 and 2 responders have additional classroom and hands-on training requirements, to be selected from a list of approved trainings for each jurisdiction. The Kirkland CERT program has included WASART training as an approved

benchmark of knowledge and disaster preparedness training. Planning is still in the early stages for this new credentialing system, and has not yet been finalized by King County. However, both Kirkland and Redmond CERT programs are encouraging cross-training with organizations such as WASART, ham radio operators, and other search and rescue groups to ensure the best possible disaster response in our area. For more information, contact your local CERT group.

Frogs, Dogs, and 98 Degrees



One of the games played at Frogs and Dogs involved a variation of musical chairs where the last to sit -- both human and dog -- was the team out of the game.

Frogs and Dogs is an annual event hosted by Rogue Brewery in Issaquah that showcases about 8 vendors, some non-profit like WASART and the ASPCA. Despite the heat, over 100 people brought their dogs and families out to enjoy the live music, food, and atmosphere. Participating WASART member, Chris, had to navigate tents, vendors and narrow alleys to get our box van into our allocated space but once there, it made a great back drop for our static displays. He also rigged our friendly stuffed Husky to the side of van, securely strapping him into the rescue litter. Husky's larger stuffed pal, the Dalmatian, was our star, as we used him to demo paw wrapping, emergency muzzles, and

emergency harnesses in front of the crowd. Our very own Michaela captivated people with her commentary during the demos and drew a multitude of passersby into our tent; a seasoned pro. Thank you to Lee and Toni for being willing to brave the high temperatures, put on a smile, and demonstrate what WASART is able to do for our community (not to mention bringing back the box van). On Saturday, it wasn't only the temperature that was hot! Our newly designed rescue rope leashes made quite a hit. We sold 7 over the course of the day. If you haven't had a chance to see this limited edition item, head to our website and take a look. They are going online for sale and we anticipate selling out quickly!

WASART is one of two non-profits who receive donations from this event and we were presented with a \$1000 check from last year! Our presence in the community makes a difference and it is only because of our volunteers that we are able to make it happen. Five members volunteered to stay over the course of the day but we also had members show up and help out throughout; Thank you, Jeanette, Denise, and Jon. It really is a fun atmosphere and we would love to see new faces. Please let us know if you want to get involved.



It was a hot day, but a pool was available for dogs to splash in and cool off.

2016 Training Dates



Here's an overview of the training dates. You can register at <http://bit.ly/WASART2016>

2016 will see some updates to the approach the training committee takes. The goal is to have one weekend of training and then the volunteer is ready to deploy. That weekend is the Fundamentals and Animal Handling & Assessment weekend (listed below).

Location and date are still being determined for the Annual Exercise.

Questions? Check with [Training Director](#).

There is also a monthly training for those wishing to be training on the technical rescue team. Contact [Aaron](#) for details on those.

NOTE: The names of trainings have changed for clarity, but the trainings are still the same.

Open House (Formerly Orientation)
Free!

August 27, 2016

10:00 a.m. - noon.

Pierce County Emergency Operation Center
2501 S. 35th Street
Tacoma, WA 98409

Fundamentals and Animal Handling & Assessment
(Formerly Core & Field Response)
September 17-18, 2016
Buckley, WA

PS: We have exemptions for veterinarians and
search and rescue members. Check with [Training
Director](#) for details.

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

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