

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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Responding to Slow Disasters



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](#)

A failed sanctuary is a disaster that takes a long time to make. We've been given the opportunity to help the [ASPCA care for the nearly 700 victims of the latest development in North Carolina](#). Photo courtesy of the ASPCA.

General Meetings

March 9, 2016

Shoreline Fire Department
Station 61
17525 Aurora Ave North
Shoreline, WA 98133

June 8, 2016

Location TBD - South Sound

Looking back at what WASART has accomplished in the past nine years, I am even more impressed with this organization, and more specifically, the people that make up this organization. We currently have over a dozen WASART members that have either deployed, or are waiting to deploy, to assist the ASPCA in caring for nearly [700 animals rescued from cruelty](#) in North Carolina. Some of these responders are deploying for a couple of weeks at a time, while others are returning for another week-long shift at a later date. All of them are committed to helping the animals in the best way that they can.

Location

September 14, 2016

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

December 14, 2016

Location TBD

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

Open House

March 12, 2016

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

Shoreline Fire Department
Station 61

17525 Aurora Avenue North
Shoreline, WA 98133

Fundamentals (f/k/a Core)

April 16, 2016 and

September 17, 2016

(repeat)

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

Location TBD

Animal Handling

& Assessment

(f/k/a Field Response)

April 17, 2016 and

September 18, 2016

(repeat)

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

Location TBD

Communications

Workshop

April 30, 2016

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

Marymoor Park

Not only will these members give the animals the help they need and deserve, our members will make it back home and prepare to deploy again and again. We train for these kinds of situations, and for good reason. Almost anyone can walk a dog or a horse, but it takes someone special to deal with the horrors of neglect or abuse on an animal time after time and remain whole. Not every rescue or deployment has the resolution we'd like, and that's one reason we spend so much time learning what our breaking points are, and how to protect ourselves; we learn how to lean on each other and trust our partners with the safety of our physical, mental, and emotional well being.

There will be a need for what WASART does in our foreseeable future. And as long as there is that need, we will train and then train some more so that we can respond, do what needs to be done, come home, and do it all over again. We'll utilize our hearts, our bodies, and our souls in order to right a wrong. Eventually we'll be able to sleep peacefully, knowing that we were part of making our world just a little bit better.

For every one of you that is doing this work or supporting this work, I give you my deepest respect and gratitude.

Shawndra Michell

President

On the Ground with the ASPCA

**Emergency Animal
Sheltering**

June 4, 2016

9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
30609 SE 352nd
Enumclaw, WA 98022

Transport

June 5, 2016

10:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m.
Enumclaw Expo Center
South Parking Lot
45224 284th Ave SE
Enumclaw, WA 98022

Open House (repeat)

August 27, 2016

Location TBD

Communications

Workshop

October 1, 2016

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

Annual Exercise

October 15, 2016

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Enumclaw Expo Center
45224 284th Ave SE
Enumclaw, WA 98022

Upcoming events

February 20, 2016

[Semiahmoo Dog Days
Weekend](#)

11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Semiahmoo Resort
9565 Semiahmoo Parkway
Blaine, WA 98230

March 12, 2016

[Annual Seattle Kennel Club](#)



About this article: WASART has been given the opportunity to assist the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals® (ASPCA) in caring for nearly 700 companion animals and livestock rescued from an unlicensed, neglectful shelter in North Carolina. We're fortunate to have a number of volunteers who were able to make time in their lives to care for these animals. [Find out more on the ASPCA's website.](#) Photo courtesy of the ASPCA.

Submitted by Jeanette W.

This was my first deployment with the ASPCA and will definitely not be my last.

I arrived after the ASPCA had set up an 80,000 square-foot temporary shelter to care for the rescued animals, so a majority of the work needed was providing daily care for the animals.

My first day going in and not knowing what to expect, it was impressive to see how well managed and organized they were. We started each morning with a briefing that included updates and tips on working around the animals. Then we were given our assignments for the day.

I was assigned to three different puppy and dog pods during the week. Each pod had a lead and one to two people assisting them. These animals were taken care of with the utmost respect. Their kennels were cleaned twice a day, water bowls cleaned and

[Dog Show](#)

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
CenturyLink Field
800 Occidental Ave, S
Seattle, WA 98134

March 26, 2016

[Peninsula All Breed Dog Show](#)

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Kitsap County Fairgrounds
1200 NW Fairgrounds
Bremerton, WA 98311

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.



refilled, supplied with appropriate toys, areas to hide in for the shy ones, and regimented feeding according to their needs. Each dog was given 30 minutes a day in the exercise pen and in the afternoon given enrichments such as kongs filled with goodies or pupsicles. My WASART traveling companion and roommate worked with cats all week. She was also extremely impressed with the same wonderful and compassionate care they received.

The ASPCA team was organized, professional and completely dedicated to the welfare of these animals. From the importance of sharing information, staying safe and organized, to maintaining daily records, reading and updating forms, sanitation, along with proper use of the [Incident Command System](#), I have gained some incredible knowledge in just five days that I can now share with my animal rescue organization back home, WASART.

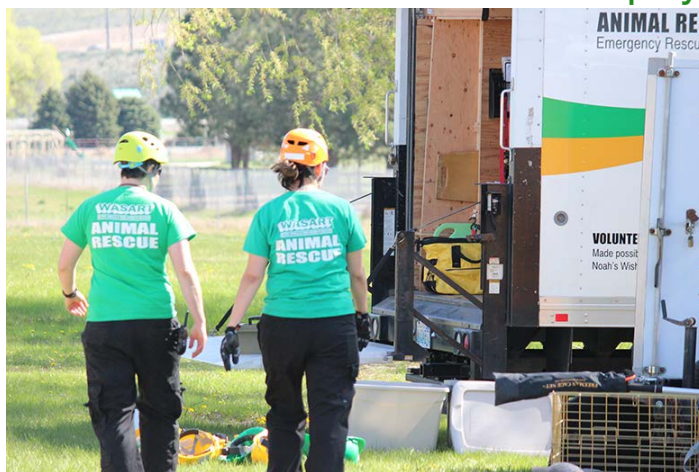
I learned so much not only working with the ASPCA team but also from the many other responders from all over the country. From forensic vets, animal cruelty task force members, to shelter managers and multiple other rescue groups. There were responders from Missouri, New York, Florida, Oregon, New Hampshire, Washington and locals from North Carolina, just to name a few. Everyone was there for the same reason, to provide the best care possible to the animals, to share and gain knowledge and to be a part of something amazing.

I was proud to be part of this team and while I hope that there will be no more incidents of this type in the future, I know that I have found my niche in the animal rescue world and will be in a better position to help out when needed, whether that be in another state or in Washington.



Photo courtesy of the ASPCA.

Decision Makers: How Does WASART Decide to Deploy?



Ever wonder how WASART decides to deploy for emergency rescues and disaster sheltering responses? Those decisions fall to a group of our members that have been trained as Duty Officers and Call Coordinators.

When someone needs our assistance, the most common means of requesting it is to call our answering service on our 24/7 hotline (425-681-5498). The answering service then calls our list of Duty Officers (DOs), going through the list until one of them is available to take the call. The answering service operator gives the DO the requester's name and contact information, and a brief description of the situation. The DO then calls the requester back and gets a detailed account of the circumstances: location, type and condition of the animal(s), terrain, whether a vet has been called, etc.

If the DO decides that WASART is qualified to handle the situation, s/he informs the requester that we will attempt to field enough responders and that we will call back promptly once we determine whether we are able to respond. At that point, the DO either recruits another one of the Duty Officers to serve as Call Coordinator (CC) or decides to serve as CC him- or herself. The DO also determines who will lead the deployment. S/he then sends an announcement over our OneCallNow calling network to all members who are qualified to deploy, describing the mission and asking them to respond promptly to the CC if they are available.

If enough members respond to the Call Coordinator, the CC informs the DO, and the DO notifies the requester that WASART will deploy. If we do not have enough responders, the DO regrettably informs the caller that we cannot take the mission, and suggests other possible resources. That has virtually never happened; on the rare occasions we have not had enough WASART responders, we have typically been able to recruit additional help from Search and Rescue and/or Mountain Rescue units to join our available members.

The Call Coordinator is a busy person during a deployment. He or she answers all the calls from members committing to deploy, providing each with the information needed for the deployment: location, situation, special circumstances, and identity of the mission leader. He or she records a timeline of the events of the deployment and maintains a constant line of communication with the mission leader. Should it become necessary to request other assets for the mission, the CC is responsible for dealing with that eventuality.

In the event that the emergency situation is one that is outside of our Mission and/or WASART's capabilities, we maintain a list of emergency resources for many, many emergency situations. Our Duty Officer will provide the caller with the relevant resources.

Our aim is always to try to do the best we can for the animal communities we serve, whether that means WASART fields a team or provides other resources to hopefully ensure the animal is removed from its situation.

CERT: First Responders in Your Own Community



Photo of a CERT class by [Joe Loong](#), published via Creative Commons license, no changes made.

How many times have you heard the word “safety” in WASART newsletters, press releases, and training modules? Safety can mean many things, but we all know that when we are deployed our prime directive is our own safety. Like other emergency response groups, our rescuers learn to keep themselves safe. Despite our frequent desire to rush to the aid of an animal in need, the safety of the team, any attendant humans (owners, local veterinarians, fire fighters, etc.), and then the animals in need all follow rescuer safety in descending order.

In order to keep our members as safe as possible, we offer a wide variety of classroom and hands-on training opportunities throughout the year. Some of you may be familiar with our Emergency Sheltering, Transport, or Animal Handling and Assessment training modules. But did you know that WASART also partners with a number of local emergency response groups to cross-train both human and animal rescuers?

One of these partners is your local Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program. These programs are supported by FEMA, and train individual citizens to care for themselves, their families, neighbors, and communities in case of an emergency. Over the course of the eight-week program, participants learn to perform basic assessments of scene safety, medical triage, and how to conduct basic search and rescue operations

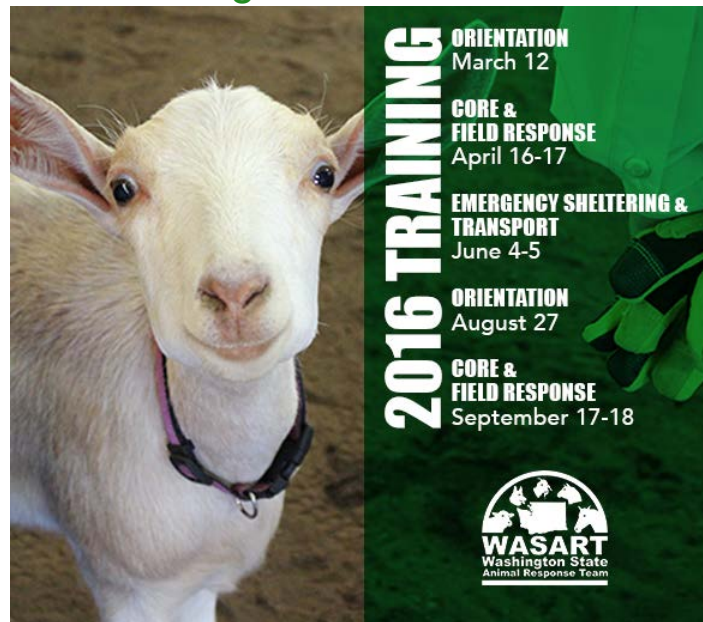
in their neighborhood. Unlike WASART, CERTs are self-deployed in an emergency situation. Because CERT members have a high probability of encountering companion or exotic animals in their searches, WASART often teaches CERTs how to safely assess and approach animals in stressful situations.

If you are interested in learning more about upcoming WASART training events, please visit our training and events page at

<http://www.washingtonsart.org/training>. If you would like to become a CERT first responder, you can look up your local CERT group at

<https://www.fema.gov/community-emergency-response-teams>. The next series of CERT classes in the Seattle area start in Kirkland on Wednesday evenings and run from 2/17/2016 – 4/6/2016 (<http://kirklandcert.com/CERT21>).

2016 Training Dates



Here's an overview of the training dates. Links to register coming soon!

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 Core & Field

Response weekend (listed below).

Locations are still being determined and dates for Technical Animal Rescue and the Annual Exercise are TBD as well.

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

There is also a monthly training for those wishing to be training on the technical rescue team. Contact Aaron at trtmanager@washingtontsart.org for details on those.

NOTE: The names of trainings will be changing, but they'll still be the same.

Open House (Orientation)

Free!

March 12, 2016

Shoreline Fire Department Training and Support

Facility Station 61

17525 Aurora Ave N, Shoreline, WA

Fundamentals and Animal Handling & Assessment (Core & Field Response)

April 16-17, 2016

Locations TBD

Emergency Sheltering & Transport

June 4-5, 2016

Locations TBD

Open House (Orientation)

Free!

August 27, 2016

Location TBD

Fundamentals and Animal Handling & Assessment (Core & Field Response)

September 17-18, 2016

Locations TBD

PS: We have exemptions for veterinarians and search and rescue members. Check with [Lucinda](#) 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) non-profit organization. Mail us at: WASART, P.O. Box 21, Enumclaw, WA 98022.

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