

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

Anniversary Tidings

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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

March 9, 2016

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

June 8, 2016

Location TBD - South Sound
Location



Members move a leg of the tripod/bipod/monopod during January's Technical Rescue practice.

Not only is this the New Year, but it's also WASART's 9th anniversary. On February 6th, it will be nine years since co-founders Greta Cook and Gretchen

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

Emergency Animal

McCallum sat around the dining room table and talked about ways to help Washington not become another Hurricane Katrina-type disaster for animals. Happy Birthday!!

When I look back at how the world has changed for disaster animal response since Katrina, I'm amazed at the progress made – and at how much is still to be done. I vividly remember showing up in New Orleans in 2005, with pretty much nothing except my desire to help – just like most of the others there. Somehow we made it work, but I still wonder how many people did not recover emotionally because of what we experienced without any sort of support or good preparation. Thankfully, I know the animals were helped, and they were taken care of. That alone helps me sleep at night.

Thankfully, WASART was born and now the animals and the humans are well cared for. We're trained, we have the proper equipment, we know our limitations, we have the support we need and we make a positive difference without damaging our souls. That's a great combination.

Speaking of training, be sure to check out all the changes going on with our classes this year. The Training Committee has done an outstanding job at streamlining and refreshing the curriculum, while focusing on our commitment to safety for us all.

Happy New Year and Happy Birthday WASART!

Shawndra Michell
President

Equipment and the Cost of Safety

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

January 16, 2016

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
[Puyallup Dog Fanciers Show](#)
Puyallup Fairgrounds
110 Ninth Avenue SW
Puyallup, WA 98371

January 23, 2016

8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
[Monroe Tractor Supply
Grand Opening](#)
13650 Roosevelt Road SE
Monroe, WA



Safety is WASART's number one priority. When a life, human or animal, depends on the integrity of one rope we pay attention. Ropes and other expensive equipment needs to be replaced after a heavy stress such as lifting a large horse. Each rescue vehicle carries at least 4 ropes, and each rope can cost almost \$500

One of WASART's major ongoing expenses is the need for frequent replacement of equipment for our Technical Rescue Team. Technical rescue, especially when animals and their rescuers are suspended by ropes, is inherently dangerous business. During our rescue missions our top priorities are human safety and then animal safety. So when humans and/or animals are hanging on rope rescue systems, it's absolutely essential that we know that the ropes and all the other hardware and software elements of that system are completely reliable.

WASART's special capabilities for large animal rescue put us in unusual circumstances in the rescue world. Washington's highly capable technical rescue teams, whether Search and Rescue, Mountain Rescue teams, or Ski Patrol rescue teams, are incredibly skilled and experienced. The major difference between their missions and WASART's is in the size of the loads we are trained to handle. Raising a 2,000 lb. draft horse out of a ditch or up a cliff is not part of their mission, but it is part of ours. So we require heavier duty equipment, both ropes and hardware, than the human rescue teams. What we have in common is the necessity that all of our equipment be safe.

Rescue gear lives a hard life. Ropes are dragged through mud, sand, and brush. Carabiners or brake racks may get dropped onto rocks or pavement. Though

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.



we never want it to happen, all the elements of a rescue system may be subjected to severe shock loads. So we are very particular about the condition of our gear. We establish strict life limits on all our “software” – ropes, webbing and Prusik cord. If they are only subjected to normal use, our rescue ropes have a maximum life of 5 years, provided they show no evidence of excess wear or damage. (They are inspected carefully after each use, and cleaned if necessary.) Our webbing and Prusiks must be replaced every year, or whenever damage is noted. Any item of hardware (carabiners, brake racks, pulleys, rigging plates) that is dropped onto a hard surface from a height greater than 3 feet must be retired immediately. Because of the great stress to which our rescue ropes are subjected when they are used to raise or lower a large animal of 1,000 lbs. or more, they must be retired after that deployment. Should a rescue system be subjected to a shock load, none of its elements can be used again. This equipment is all expensive, and therefore its frequent and regular replacement is a cost that WASART must contend with now and from now on. It is an ongoing challenge to our finances.

We're currently in the middle of replacing our rope systems. [If you'd like to donate](#), please know your gift allows everyone, human and animal alike, to go home safe. If you'd like to gift us ropes directly, feel free to [contact us](#) for the details.

Update on Anakin: Slow Success



Anakin from our early December deployments is slowly improving at Pilchuck Veterinary Equine Hospital in Snohomish. As of January 13, 2016, he stood up for the first time without lifting apparatus.

In case you missed reading about this deployment in the WASART NEWS of [December 2015](#) on Saturday, December 5th, WASART was called to assist in raising a horse who was laying down in his pasture in Winlock, WA and unable to get up. We succeeded in raising him but another raise was needed on Monday. After that raise, the decision was made that he needed more intensive care than his local rescuers could provide. Save A Forgotten Equine (S.A.F.E.) in Woodinville stepped up to help. On Tuesday, Anakin was taken to Cedarbrook Veterinary Care in Snohomish. If you have not read Anakin's amazing backstory, you can find it here: <https://www.safehorses.org/?p=21600>

Anakin was subsequently trailered to the [Pilchuck Veterinary Equine Hospital](#) in Snohomish where he has been under its vets' care for three weeks. (Pilchuck has on-site equipment to raise him when he lays down.) He is gaining weight and strength in the care of Pilchuck's staff. He is still seriously underweight and unable to get up without a little help, but Anakin is staying up longer and can get up without the lifting apparatus, just a little human assist.

More on his current status can be found here: <https://www.safehorses.org/?cat=168>

Lifting Lars: A Large Horse Down in Stall



Friesian Lars East went down in his stall and wasn't able to get up by himself, so we responded to see if

we could help. Juan Carlos, pictured next to Lars, came to the deployment straight from a human Search and Rescue mission along with his son Gabriel, also a member of WASART. Check out [photos on our Facebook page](#) or a [video of the rescue on YouTube](#).

On the afternoon of December 22nd, WASART received a call for assistance for a horse that had lain down in his stall and was unable to get himself up due to arthritis in his hind legs. The horse's vet was on site and believed that Lars would be able to get up with some help.

At about 6:00 p.m., we were given the go-ahead to deploy by Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management. WASART responders from the area as well as from as far south as Enumclaw braved the darkness and unfamiliar roads. The first responders arrived on site at 6:15 p.m. with most arriving by 8:40 p.m.. Two of our responders came directly from a human Search and Rescue mission at Snoqualmie Pass that had just concluded and arrived about 10:30 p.m. when we were ready to move the horse. Their help was much appreciated.

The barn personnel had already removed a stall wall to give us more room to work safely. After a brief planning conference, it was decided that the barn structure could not be used to raise the horse. We divided into two teams; one team began to set up the tripod and raising systems in the enclosed arena in an adjacent building, while the other team prepared the horse and slid him onto the Rescue Glide so that we could move him to the arena.

Every deployment seems to have at least one unusual aspect. In this case, our usual method of "taco-ing" a horse by drawing the legs up close to the body and partially folding the glide around him was not possible. Lars' arthritis would not allow his hind legs to fold up tightly. Working with what we had, a couple of extra tag lines were attached to the glide and we simply moved him through the stall door like you would move a sofa through a door in your home, front end first, with a side pull for the legs.

With plenty of help on the two pull teams from barn personnel, the slickness of the glide, and the fact that we were going slightly downhill, the rest of the pull into the arena was straightforward.

Once there, the straps of the Becker Sling, which had been placed on Lars when in the stall to help get him onto the glide, were attached to the rest of the Becker hardware and the lifting system. "Haul away slow" was called out and we were able to lift the horse smoothly to his feet.

Throughout the operation, Lars was sedated by the attending veterinarian. There were a few tense moments before Lars woke up enough to stand on his own, but he was soon ready to try to walk away, sling and all. Once it was apparent that he was okay standing on his own, the sling was removed. Lars was kept in the arena, just in case he went down again. Reports are that he is doing fine.

WASART responders left the scene around 11:00 p.m. Another successful deployment and a very satisfying end to the day. In the WASART world, It doesn't get much better than this.

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@washingtonsart.org for details on those.

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

Open House (Orientation)

March 12, 2016

Location TBD

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)

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.

info@washingtonsart.org - www.washingtonsart.org • (425) 681-5498

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