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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

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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.

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General Meetings

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

From The President

Like Seeing an Old Friend



We rarely get to follow up on our rescues. However, we got the chance not only to see Gemma again, but her trainer, who was instrumental in our successful rescue of the horse, hosted a horse show with the proceeds going to WASART. (See story farther down.)

In May of 2013, WASART volunteers participated in a cooperative rescue of a horse named Gemma. She was found on a small rock ledge, 70 feet down a steep ravine in Redmond, WA. It was technical, challenging, and in the end, very successful.

Many times, with the rescues in which we participate, we don't get to know what happens afterward. Thankfully, this was not the case with Gemma. The owner has kept in touch with us, and even had a fund raising event for us recently.

December 14, 2016

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 - 2:00 p.m.

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.

Location TBD

[Register](#)

Animal Handling

& Assessment

(f/k/a Field Response)

September 18, 2016 (repeat)

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

Location TBD

[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](#)

Annual Exercise

October 15, 2016

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

Several of our volunteers who were on the 2013 rescue were able to be at this event and visit with Gemma again. Getting to see a rescued animal months, or even years later is an incredible experience, and can help heal your soul.

Many of you have probably heard some version of the story of the young boy on the beach, helping rescue thousands and thousands of baby turtles that had gotten turned around and are heading away from the water. It's an insurmountable task. An adult stops him and says, "you can't save them all, why are you even trying? It doesn't matter."

The boy looks at them and says, "It matters to the ones I save."

That's what we do. We can't save them all, but we can save some. And that does matter. It matters to that animal, to their humans, and to us as rescuers. It matters, and it makes a difference. Thank you, Gemma, and every other animal that has touched our lives. You matter deeply to us all.

Shawndra Michell

President

Embankment Confirmed Clear of Missing Dog

Enumclaw Expo Center
45224 284th Ave SE
Enumclaw, WA 98022
[Register](#)

Upcoming events

July 23, 2016

[Tacoma Humane Dog-A-Thon](#)

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Fort Steilacoom Park

8714 87th Ave SW

Lakewood, WA 98498

August 13, 2016

[NW Citizen Corps Expo](#)

7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Renton Technical College

3000 NE Fourth

Renton, WA 98056

August 27, 2016

[Barktoberfest](#)

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Roegner Park

601 Oravetz Road SE

Auburn, WA

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



The technical team works on the rope systems.

On Thursday, July 7th, our assistance was requested on Vashon Island to help locate a dog who had fallen over an embankment, a few days before, after being frightened by fireworks.

WASART responders met up with fellow nonprofit Vashon Island Pet Protectors (VIPP) shortly after noon. VIPP had been looking for the dog, but some of the search area was too steep to search safely without technical rescue equipment and expertise. That's where WASART came into the picture.

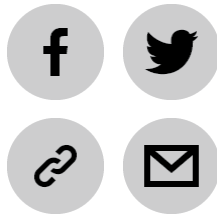
The embankment the dog had gone over was steep and covered in thick vegetation. The property owner, who had observed Tumble go over the bank, had thoughtfully marked the spot where the dog had disappeared. Tumble is not their dog, but they wanted to help find him anyway.

While the WASART technical lead was deciding on the best way to rig the rope systems, VIPP sent out a call for help, and an impressive group of volunteers began to arrive. These included people standing by to help haul, should we find the dog and need help hoisting, and a small collection of amazing first responders from Seattle Fire, including

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.



some with technical experience.

We felt it was best to send a responder over the edge and follow the trail of broken salal, blackberries, and nettles as far as he could.

Responder Aaron went over with a machete. About 60 feet down he found the bandana that Tumble had been wearing. He pocketed this to return to the owner. Once the ground leveled out, the terrain became manageable without ropes.

We sent responder Jeff over the edge next as a second set of eyes. Visibility was poor due to the thick brush, but Arron and Jeff continued to search.

Meanwhile, Seattle Fire responder, Marci, a welcome addition to the team, helped coordinate the response and communicate with Aaron via radio. A couple of other fire responders, Janet and Annie, went down another route to search another section of the embankment. Once Jeff was also off rope, most of the remaining volunteers drove to a trailhead access for a path to the system of trails at the bottom of the hillside. These teams eventually met up with Aaron and Jeff. Although WASART's mission does not include searching, we were onsite, and so proceeded to search the trail system, watching and calling for Tumble.

We did not find Tumble, but we hope we've set his owner's mind at ease, knowing he wasn't in the technical area that they hadn't been able to search. VIPP will continue to search, they are familiar with the area and the residents.

We hope that Tumble will eventually reappear..

We appreciate being welcomed by the tight-knit Vashon Island community for our day in their area, and for meeting the dedicated folks of VIPP. We also thank the Seattle Fire personnel who came out on their own time to help out.

VIPP is a 501(c)(3). They perform a great service for Vashon Island and can be found here: www.vipp.org



Tumble, in the family's photo.

Cat Coaxed From Storm Drain



The cat waits in a culvert. He would retreat into the culvert if we reached into the drain.

We usually refer cats to the fine folks at [Canopy Cat Rescue](#) because cats generally go up in trees. In this case, the cat was in a storm drainage system, and on the morning of Friday, July 8, we were called up to North Bend to assist him. The cat had been in a culvert for a number of days and the owner was unable to reach or coax it out. The cat was fairly new to the owner, who had adopted him only a few weeks before.

Anytime someone reached for the cat, he retreated out of reach. He felt comfortable in his adopted home in the ground and did not appreciate our attempts to “rescue” him. Responder Bill brought sardines and tuna, which were opened in an attempt to lure out the cat. This was a tactic the

owner had already tried, but it's still good to start with the kindest and easiest solutions. It was hard to understand why the cat was uninterested in food until we found an exit where the cat may have been sneaking out in the evening to go hunting for midnight snacks in the woods nearby. This is likely how the cat entered the storm drain system to start with.

After the food was offered and rejected, the team offered the cat a ladder, which residents had already built onsite. Again, we didn't expect it to work, but we try the least stressful solutions first. When the ladder didn't work, the team had to get creative. The pros and cons were weighed and okayed by the owner before each possible solution was tested.

These solutions included making noise by banging on the pipe behind the cat, running some extra water through the culvert in hopes the water would encourage the cat to leave, and rolling a tennis ball from the upper exit with the idea that a tennis ball nudge from the back would convince the cat to move forward. Since the cat seemed unaffected by these strategies, the team borrowed a dog's toy ball from a neighbor and rolled it gently down the pipe. The team did not have the reach to move the ball far enough forward to force the cat out so they borrowed a leaf blower from a neighbor to blow the ball forward.

After a few minutes, the noise from the leaf blower, the airflow, and/or the blower's exhaust smell, made the culvert unpleasant and the cat stuck his head far enough out of the lower end for the owner to grab him. The cat was, of course, upset, but he did not struggle much and seemed to be happy to be in the relative quiet of his carrier. The owner took him to her nearby home.

Vets Help Rescue From Cliff



Shelby, seen here rigged in a dog lift harness, takes a break at the top of the area she dropped over.

On Friday July 15, WASART received a call to assist with a dog over a steep slope. This time it was at Pinnacle Peak Park, near Enumclaw.

Shelby, a 2 year old female Golden Retriever, had fallen over the edge about 1/2 mile up from the trailhead. The owner was out for a hike with two dogs when Shelby got too close to the edge and slipped about 50 feet down. Initially it was not known if she was injured. She could not be seen but could be heard barking.

King County Sheriff Muckleshoot Tribal Police Chief Keeney was first on scene followed by Drs Horton and Herzstein from Country Animal Hospital in Enumclaw. The doctors are climbers as well as veterinarians, so they used a rope system to reach the dog and determine she was okay. Once down, though, they did not have the additional equipment to get themselves and Shelby back up onto the trail.

WASART responder Greta arrived on the scene with the equipment van and assessed the situation. Shortly thereafter responder Aaron arrived and,

after communicating with Greta, brought additional equipment up with the generous help from two bystanders.

Meanwhile responder Bill and two Animal Control Officers from Regional Animal Services of King County drove around to the west side of the peak in case Shelby decided to self rescue and leave by the back way.

This turned out to be unnecessary, as the first team had managed to put a harness on the dog, and were in the process of raising her. The owner and Chief Keeney from Muckleshoot Tribal Police assisted with the lift.

Once Shelby was out safe, the equipment was packed out, all responders accounted for, and we headed for home, very pleased that Shelby was out and unharmed.



One of the veterinarians makes her way up the

terrain. Shelby, wearing the orange dog harness just below is rigged and hanging from the doctor's harness.

A Happy Reunion



Gemma, now called Yoshi, was the star of the show at Grateful Pine Farm's Multi-Sport Summer Fun Show.

It was a happy reunion for some WASART members and Gemma, a Fjord mare, when they reunited on Saturday, July 9 at [Grateful Pine Farm](#) in Snohomish County. Gemma was the subject of one of our most difficult rescues. We reported the story of her rescue from a tiny ledge on a cliff near

Woodinville in our [June, 2013 newsletter](#). It was then, and remains, one of our most technical and difficult rescues. (Kelly had written the first part of the story, before WASART was involved [on the farm's blog](#).)

We were thrilled when Kelly Munro, Gemma's trainer at the time of the rescue, and now her owner, told us that she was planning to hold a fundraiser on WASART's behalf at her Grateful Pine Farm and training facility. She invited us to attend and tell WASART's story at the event, which was a dressage and trail-riding competition. We were honored and happy to accept her invitation.

The high point of the day, of course, was the chance to again meet Gemma, who now goes by Yoshi, this time under much more relaxed and less stressful circumstances. She looked lovely, and clearly none the worse for wear from her earlier adventure. Kelly was a wonderful host, telling the crowd about WASART, what we do, and urging all the horse people there to be sure and put our emergency number in their telephones, in case they should need us in the future.

It was a great honor to have Kelly sponsor this event. We were delighted to learn that, thanks to her efforts and kind words, the event had raised over \$1200 on our behalf. We are so grateful to her for her efforts.

Thank you, Kelly!



Gemma, during the rescue. Standing with her are Greta and Kelly Munro. To the right is JC who was not a WASART member at the time but joined after this rescue and has been a valuable asset ever since.

Public Education

Paw Wrapping for Trail Injuries



PAW WRAPPING FOR TRAIL INJURIES

July 30 • 9-10 a.m. • 10:30-11:30 a.m. • \$20
Learn to wrap burned or cut paws so you can make it safely
back down the trail in this class with hands-on practice.
Renton Community Center • Tickets: <http://paw2016.bpt.me>

If you go hiking with your dog, you may be

interested in learning how to wrap injured paws. We're offering this one hour class to the public on July 30 at the Renton Community Center. We'll show you how to wrap a paw, let you practice, and send you on our way to go out and have fun. Choose from one of two sessions -- 9-10 a.m. or 10:30-11:30 a.m. Only \$20! Sign up at Brown Paper Tickets: <http://paw2016.bpt.me/>

NW Citizen Corps Offering Classes In Disaster Preparedness.



If you're interested in learning about Emergency Communications & Radio Use, Explosive & Traumatic Disasters, CERT Command & Leadership, Terrorism & the Active Shooter, Psychological First Aid as well as lots of other interesting and relevant classes, then the upcoming

[NW Citizen Corps Expo](#) on August 13, 2016 from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the [Renton Technical College](#) is the place for you. Volunteers can also participate as a moulage model or moulaged "victim" for the exercise. Registration is now open and the cost of \$20.00 includes a continental breakfast, lunch and snacks.

WASART's Zoe C. will be presenting a one hour class on Disaster Preparedness for Pets and Livestock at 10:30 a.m. and WASART will also have an Outreach booth at the Expo staffed by Bonnie O. and Robert B.

Hope to see you there!

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. - 2:00 p.m.

Pierce County Emergency Operation Center
Tacoma, WA

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

September 17-18, 2016

Location TBD

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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