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

Teamwork Brings Balta Out Safely
Department of Emergency Management Recognizes WASART
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Preparing with Cascadia Rising
2016 Training Dates

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

From The President

Prepare for the Worst, Hope for the Best

WASART members practice carrying a litter.

Happy Summer Solstice all (and happy Winter Solstice to our friends in the Southern Hemisphere),
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 (repeat)
August 27, 2016
Location TBD
Register

Fundamentals (f/k/a Core)
September 17, 2016 (repeat)
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Foothills Veterinary Hospital
28512 112th Street East
Buckley, WA 98321
Register

Animal Handing & Assessment (f/k/a Field Response)
September 18, 2016 (repeat)
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Foothills Veterinary 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

Annual Exercise
October 15, 2016
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Enumclaw Expo Center
45224 284th Ave SE
Enumclaw, WA 98022
Register

Teamwork Brings Balta Out Safely

Summer is upon us and brings with it lots of fun and also unique challenges during our busiest season. WASART has been preparing for what may be in store: fires, droughts, mountain and trail rescues, criminal cases, and other unpredictable disasters. Safety is always our first concern, and our teams are well-prepared for what the responses ahead may require.

We’ve had great trainings recently for all levels of our members, and have also been doing thorough maintenance on our equipment. We’ve got strict guidelines for all our gear, since lives depend on it, so we take it very seriously. As many of you know, training, maintenance, and preparation are critical for success.

In addition to our own training and ongoing education we take part in community preparedness efforts. Read more below about our involvement with the Cascadia Rising events. Now is a great time to review and update your own plans/supplies in the event of a disaster – including animals, of course. You may also want to consider practicing getting your animals in and out of crates, trailers, etc. Getting them accustomed to new environments now could make things much easier in the event of an emergency evacuation, especially with unfamiliar people.

Here’s to a very happy and safe Summer!

Shawndra Michell, President
During our Emergency Animal Sheltering Training, we had a call out for a dog in a ravine near the Denny Creek Trail. We joined Explorer Search and Rescue (ESAR), Tacoma Mountain Rescue (TMR), and Seattle Mountain Rescue (SMR) at the base of the trail. The original information said it was a mile and a quarter hike up Denny Creek with some scramble at the end. The scramble at the end ended up being some of the more difficult terrain we've gone on. It was a slow three hour climb to the spot — up a creek bed, then up to follow the ridge to where the dog had slipped over the edge and down about a hundred feet. A couple of SMR members were already nearby when the call came in, reached the dog and owner quickly, and had the dog rigged. The dog was up shortly after we arrived.

We helped the dog down by belaying her first for a bit until we were sure she could walk okay. Then
she was taken off belay and she and her owner made their careful way back down.

We don't currently have further info on how the dog is doing, but we're hoping for the best for everyone involved.

Thanks as always to the great groups we get to work with -- ESAR, SMR, and TMR. Of course, we are also very appreciative of the King County Sheriff's Office which makes it all possible.

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Department of Emergency Management Recognizes WASART

Did you know that, during an emergency, Citizen Corps can provide more volunteer responders than there are paid responders? The list of volunteer organizations is long and includes such groups as The Red Cross, church groups, Search and Rescue, chain saw teams, teams of people to get water and other supplies to those in need, Amateur Radio groups, and many more. They all give generously of their time to help others.

Pierce County invited all of these groups to a celebration of Citizen Corps at the Pierce County Department of Emergency Management (DEM) operations center, and many were able to send a representative. The groups were all mentioned during the introduction and their representatives
stood and identified themselves. The representatives were then called up individually to receive their certificates and stand for group photos.

WASART is proud to be one of those groups, and pleased to receive this Certificate of Appreciation from the DEM “in recognition for the support you have provided in helping build disaster-ready communities in Pierce County”. WASART is equipped and ready to provide sheltering for both companion animals and livestock in a disaster.

Volunteer of the Quarter

Joe Cruikshank

Joe exemplifies the qualities that make a great volunteer. He's ready to pitch in when needed, has a big heart, an abundance of common sense, and is
generous with his knowledge and kind words. He has been instrumental in increasing WASART's technical skill set with great ideas and by sharing his extensive experience through patient teaching. Joe also volunteers for Explorer Search and Rescue, and we're certain they appreciate him as much as we do.

Preparing with Cascadia Rising

As many of you may know, WASART participated in the Cascadia Rising training exercise. Cascadia Rising was a simulation of a 9.0 earthquake and resulting tsunami along the Cascadia Subduction Zone. Multiple agencies joined in the practice to test coordination and integration in the area. The training provided some valuable reminders for us all.

First and foremost, remember take care of yourself and your own families. If we aren’t prepared to handle our own needs (or our animals’), we can’t help others who may need our help. Some of us have 72-hour go-bags with food, water, and basic supplies. Remember that depending on the situation, you may be required to shelter in place or evacuate. As you go about your daily business, note alternative routes and resources around you. Build flexibility into your plan, and make sure that the people who care about you know your plan.
In the event of “the Big One”, your local community has a plan in place. Familiarize yourself with the plans for both humans and animals, and where emergency services may be available in your neighborhood. If you and your family are safe and secure, check on your neighbors, and then find first responders (usually fire fighters) in your area. Show them your Emergency Worker badge, if you have one, and assist as you are able (always within your scope of experience and expertise).

As we know from previous events, communication is often very limited in these situations. Make sure to have an out-of-state emergency contact. Alternative group communications like GroupMe (a free app you can find [here](http://bit.ly/WASART2016)) may prove helpful when other communications networks are overloaded. Let your loved ones know where to find you during the day, at night, on the weekends, or at work, and tell them what your plan is in each case.

Further information on the Cascadia Rising scenario will be available after Monday’s meeting with King County, and we will share that with you as soon as possible. Until then, happy planning, and stay safe!

### 2016 Training Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Type</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fundamentals &amp; Animal Handling &amp; Assessment</td>
<td>April 16-17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emergency Sheltering &amp; Transport</td>
<td>June 4-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical Animal Rescue</td>
<td>June 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>August 27</td>
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<td>Oct 15</td>
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</tbody>
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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 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 have changed for clarity, but the trainings are still the same.

Open House (Formerly Orientation)
Free!
August 27, 2016
Location TBD, will be south of Seattle

Fundamentals and Animal Handling & Assessment (Formerly 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.
Dog rescued from Denny Creek ravine -- WASART News June 2016