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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](http://www.washingtonsart.org)

Helping Animals & Their Owners in Disasters

From The President

## Thankful for it All

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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

**December 14, 2016**  
Shoreline Fire Department,  
Station 61  
17525 Aurora Avenue North  
Seattle, WA 98133

The General Membership



*Training continues even as bad weather approaches. Here, the technical rescue team takes advantage of what may be the last nice days of the year.*

As the weather, and many other things around us change, it's nice to know that some things don't change. WASART members will continue to train and prepare, we will continue to care deeply for the

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.

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### Upcoming training

Register at  
<http://bit.ly/WASART2017>

**Open House**  
**January 21, 2017**  
10:00 - noon  
Location TBD

**Fundamentals (f/k/a Core)**  
**February 4, 2017**  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Location TBD

**Animal Handling & Assessment (f/k/a Field Response)**  
**March 25, 2017**  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Location TBD

**Emergency Animal Sheltering**  
**April 22, 2017**  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Location TBD

**May 13, 2017**  
**Transport**  
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Location TBD

**Open House (repeat)**  
**August 27, 2017**  
10:00 - noon  
Location TBD

**Fundamentals (f/k/a Core) (repeat)**  
**September 17, 2017**  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Location TBD

**Animal Handling & Assessment**

animals and the humans we help, and we will remain committed to our mission. We are as dedicated as we've ever been, and for that, I really am grateful. We are also very grateful for the latest donation of the newest AKC trailer (see the story below for more about the unveiling). We would also be very grateful for a donation of a truck to tow it with – contact the Chair of our [Fundraising Committee](#) for more details on our needs.

May you all have a very safe and happy Thanksgiving, and may you all have much to be grateful for!

Shawndra Michell  
President

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## The Deployments We Don't Talk About



*Responder Elizabeth B. comforts a horse during a deployment.*

Sometimes we have deployments we don't end up posting about on social media. In the case of a horse that needs to be euthanized, we give the family privacy by not publicizing the deployment, for example. That is not to say these deployments don't affect us. We are thankful for what we learn from them and our hearts are often with the families when the outcome is less than ideal. We are also grateful that we can be there for owners who have

**(f/k/a Field Response)(repeat)**

**October 1, 2017**

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Location TBD

**Annual Exercise**

**October 21, 2017**

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

Enumclaw Expo Center

45224 284th Ave SE

Enumclaw, WA 98022

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**Upcoming events**

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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.



to make difficult decisions. We are given the gift of their trust to give their four-legged family member on last chance. We have done our best.

We also notice patterns in calls. Last year, we had three calls in a row of different horses stuck in different ravines in Whatcom County within a 24 hour period. One call even came in while we were on the phone with the owner of another.

Recently the pattern seems to be these below-the-radar deployments we've decided not to publicize in our usual storytelling manner. Here are some of them:

- A horse went down and was unable to use his hind legs. The difficult decision was made to euthanize. While we waited for the vet, a responder fed the horse her snack of melon, which the owner said was the horse's favorite, so the horse would have one last bit of kindness.
- A woman rescued a starving horse from a kill lot and called us when the horse went down. The vet and the owner decided to euthanize the horse while we were en route.
- A teenager called us because her cat had apparently lifted a heating vent and crawled into the ductwork. Responders suited up in Tyvek protective suits, crawled under the house. They used mirrors and lights after disassembling strategic bits of ductwork to find the cat. The cat was never found, but we did find non-pet rats under the house.
- A horse died down a difficult slope between two trees. We assisted the owner by moving the horse to a more accessible place so she could manage the remains as she saw fit.
- Immediately after moving the dead horse, a homeless man contacted us about a cat he'd lost. We met him on site to evaluate the situation and found he had been hearing the cat for the last nine

days and had several ideas about what had happened. Responders did not hear the cat he insisted continued to vocalize loudly. We listened to him and his concerns and waited with him until [Roaming Paws](#) arrived with a cat search dog to clear accessible areas of concern.

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## Second AKC Trailer Dedication



*A big thanks to the AKC, 10 local AKC clubs, and the Invisible Fence Company for their generosity in securing this trailer for us.*

Not once but twice the American Kennel Club Reunite has deemed WASART an animal welfare organization worthy of being the recipient of another donated brand new 16' trailer fully stocked with supplies and equipment to set up an emergency shelter for up to 65 dogs.

It has been over 12 months since the first trailer arrived. It was dedicated at the Seattle Kennel Club's Annual Dog Show at Centurylink Field on March 13, 2016. The second trailer was dedicated on November 19, 2016 at the Whidbey Island Kennel Club's 60th Anniversary Dog Show at the Evergreen State Fairgrounds, Monroe, WA. These trailers are the only ones of their kind in the greater Puget Sound, with one being staged in Enumclaw, WA and the other further north in Snohomish, WA.

Both trailers are the result of many dog breed organizations and kennel clubs in Washington contributing to the AKC Pet Disaster Relief Trailer Program. Like the first trailer, this trailer is fully stocked with the supplies and equipment needed to set up emergency animal shelters and to support and reunite pets after disasters such as floods and earthquakes.

Because of the generosity of so many organizations, WASART and Washington State are now in a better position to more quickly and efficiently respond to disasters that affect animals and their owners. We are grateful for the support.

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## New Experiences for Ropes with Experience



*[Retired ropes are now leashes](#) made by WASART volunteers.*

When it comes to dog leashes, WASART has created something any four-legged friend would be proud to wear. Handcrafted by fellow WASART members, these leashes were made from retired rescue ropes used by our technical rescue team. Once a lifeline between our team and an animal in distress, they can now be the lifeline between you and your pet. Each leash has a high quality bolt snap on one end with a sturdy handle on the other, reinforced with stitching and paracord whipping. With two sizes and four colors to choose from, there are plenty of options for everyone.

During a season where we count our blessings, we can't help but think back on the many reunions between animal and owner, animals like Tucker, that may have found themselves on the other end of

these ropes, and recognize that none of it would be possible without you. Thank you.

Tucker's owner sent us this update: "Thank you so much for your help in rescuing our 16 year old Australian Cattle Dog mix, Tucker, from the ravine behind our home last year. He's doing amazingly well for a 16 year old and we now have a fence in place so that he can continue to roam around the back yard without worrying about his balance/eyesight and hearing issues."

Supplies are very limited. Check them out:  
<https://wasart.myshopify.com/>

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## Handcrafted Holiday Cards and Ornaments



Handmade ornaments are [available for the holidays!](#)

WASART is bringing its custom designed Christmas cards and ornaments back on line, just in time to get your orders in for the holiday season. The matte velvet finish on the card lends a professional touch while the design invokes a homemade quality feel. The ornaments are beautiful in their simplicity and would lend character to any tree. [Now available online while supplies last.](#)

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## Celebrate Giving Tuesday With WASART



#GI<sup>♥</sup>INGTUESDAY™

11.29.2016



*We hope you'll join us on #givingtuesday!*

This past year, WASART was able to add a tripod and a box van to its list of equipment. These vital pieces of equipment enhanced the safety of our responders, and greatly impacted our capability to respond to larger animals and more complex situations. The tripod proved to be invaluable from the first time WASART used it to give Anakin the horse a much needed lift to a 450 pound pet pig who couldn't manage to get on her feet. Thankfully, we also had the newer box van which, due to its size and maneuverability, allowed us to access these animals with ease. Currently, WASART deploys to all calls from a vehicle staging area in the south Puget Sound area near Enumclaw. Moving forward, WASART's goal is to have these capabilities staged in locations north and south of Seattle in order to reduce response times and avoid Seattle traffic which can add hours to the transit time.



This Giving Tuesday, we hope to reach \$5,000 in 24 hours.

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## 2016-2017 Training Dates



## 2017 Training Dates

**Open House** – January 21st, August 27th (no registration needed)

**Fundamentals** – February 4th, September 17th (repeat)

**Animal Handling & Assessment** – March 25th, October 1st (repeat)

**Sheltering** – April 22nd

**Transport** – May 13th

**Annual Exercise** – October 21st (tentative)

**Technical Rescue** – Monthly, contact the [Technical Rescue Chair](#) for info)

## Register for 2017

You can register for 2017's trainings at <http://bit.ly/WASART2017>. Questions? Check with [Training Director](#).

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

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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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