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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

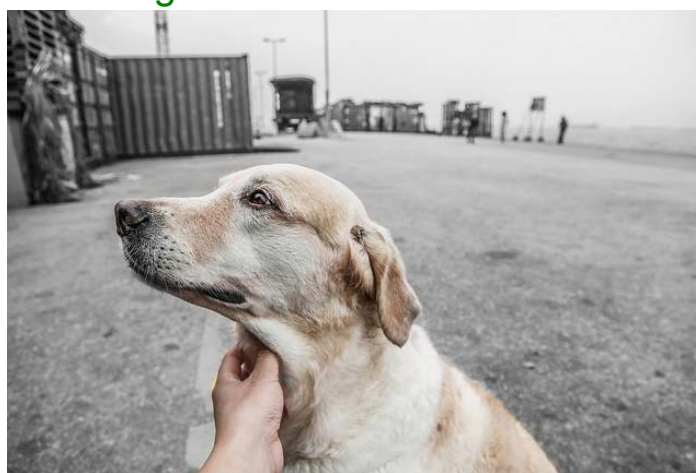
From The President

It's a Long Road

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](#)



There are many things we can do to help our furry friends. Photo by [Bailey Cheng](#), published under Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 2.0 Generic license. No changes made.

General Meetings

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.

With everything going on in our world right now, it makes me pause and think about the power each of us has in our voice – especially when we join forces with others. I believe it is not only our right, but also our obligation, to speak up for anyone or anything that is not able to speak on its own behalf. I also believe in the power of knowledge and using that knowledge for good. Between social media, our votes, testifying at House and Senate hearings, and many others, we have outlets to be heard, and to share the truth. Not our version of the truth, but the actual truth.

Upcoming training

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

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](#)

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)

Every year, we have incredible power to be heard regarding people and issues that directly affect animals and our environment. Here's to using that power wisely. And while we're at it, using our powers to prepare our homes and families for the upcoming rainy season. Be safe and be prepared.

Shawndra Michell

President

Did you know?

- In 1867 Henry Bergh (founder of the ASPCA) prepared a revision to the state of New York's animal cruelty law that made all forms of animal fighting illegal for the first time.
- *In 2007, the US Congress passed the Animal Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act with strong bipartisan support.*
- *As of 2008, dogfighting is a felony in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. In most states, the possession of dogs for the purpose of fighting is also a felony offense. Being a spectator at a dogfight is illegal in all states except Montana and Hawaii.*

Teamwork Brings Frankie Out Safely

September 17, 2017

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

Location TBD

Animal Handling & Assessment

(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

Upcoming events

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



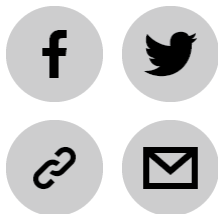
WASART and Seattle Mountain Rescue members package Frankie for the trip back to the trailhead.

On August 23rd, WASART received a call from King County SAR dispatch that our assistance was needed to help with a dog named Frankie that had gone over a 150 ft cliff while hiking along the trail at Denny Creek. [Seattle Mountain Rescue](#) (SMR) had already been deployed and WASART members quickly responded to assist with the extraction and packout.

When the WASART team arrived and hiked the 2.5 miles up the trail to the dog's location, SMR had located Frankie and readied a litter to carry her back down. We were all very careful about placing her in the litter, padding her for comfort, and strapping her in for safety.

The first part of the climb down took place in a field of rocks with a small amount of water that would join Denny Creek below. After that we took the trail and continued to carry Frankie down in the litter. Part of the way we were able to use the wheel that SMR had

preparedness, education, and emergency response.



brought up to make things easier and a bit smoother for her.

Frankie's owners and friend were on hand, offering help if we needed it. In the front, SMR responder Larry C. did an excellent job of narrating steps down or rocks in the way to keep things safer for the responders carrying the litter. (See video below.)

Back at the trailhead, we unstrapped Frankie and carefully transferred her to the back of the car, where she was headed immediately to the vet.

In a followup from Frankie's owner, the emergency veterinarian confirmed that Frankie had sustained a double hip fracture but was healing well and happy with all the attention she was receiving.

As always, we were pleased to partner yet again with our friends at Seattle Mountain Rescue and were happy to learn that Frankie will recover.



Video: Seattle Mountain Rescue brought their litter and wheel attachment. This makes carrying out a dog (or human, which SMR usually uses it for) much easier and smoother for the subject. Frankie was calm and alert during the ride out.

Ajax: Rainy Night Rescue



Left to right: As Dr. Kelli watches the dog carefully, WASART responder Aaron crouches, ready with the litter's flap. The dog's very clear body language shows he's unhappy about the situation (and who wouldn't be, really?), the owner is leaning over the dog, and the ESAR member (in red) is giving everyone some space.

Saturday night, September 17th, saw us hiking up Mt. Si in North Bend, WA as the darkness fell and the rain started. We'd received a call as we were wrapping up Fundamentals training. We'd just started putting the tripod and rope gear in the van when word came about an injured dog partway up the trail. Since we had a good number of responders on site who were instructors and ready to go, we made the necessary calls to get permission and an incident number activated for King County. Then we headed out for the North Bend area, about an hour away from where we were holding training.

We arrived at the trailhead at about 6:45 p.m. and sent a small, light team of two up to start assessing the situation. A second team packed up gear they thought we would need and headed up when ready. A smaller team of responders stayed behind to run the base and to be ready to head up with other supplies should the situation call for it.

On the trail about 45 minutes up waited the 5-year-old dog, its owner, and a member of King County's Explorer Search and Rescue ([ESAR](#)) who, though not

deployed, happened to come by the dog and owner. The ESAR member had asked if the owner and dog needed help and offered to wait with them while help was on the way.

By the time we arrived, the rain had soaked everyone — dog, owner, the ESAR member, and our responders. The dog was a handsome 85 lb pit bull-type dog who seemed to be having some problems with his hind leg.

As was standard practice on dog-related deployments a muzzle was put on the dog named Ajax. Responder Aaron unstrapped and setup a lightweight stretcher-type litter he'd carried up the trail. The owner very patiently worked with Ajax, trying to get him to relax and coaxing him to lay down. Between the pain and the strangers, the dog was understandably a bit nervous and uninterested in cooperating.

Veterinarian and WASART member Dr. Kelli had deployed as well, and though she was on the team as a responder rather than a vet, she noted Ajax seemed to have plenty of energy but was uncomfortable using his hind leg. She suggested we use a strap or something similar to assist his hind end and see if Ajax would be willing to move down the trail with less weight to bear.

We threaded the owner's scarf under the dog's hips and, holding the ends of the fabric so the scarf became a sling, the owner and Dr. Kelli moved experimentally down the trail a bit. That seemed to be working, so we gathered the owner's items and followed at a distance.

At about 9:45 p.m., some of the base crew met Ajax and team at the trailhead with a dry towel for Ajax before getting him into the car where he would dry faster and warm up.

As we debriefed, the rain began to let up. We headed for home by 10:00 p.m.

We know you'll be concerned about Ajax's condition. The injury is likely a pre-existing one that the owner

was unaware of. We haven't heard updates, but will let you know if we do.

A big thanks to the ESAR member who just happened to be passing by and did a stranger a kindness by waiting in the rain with him and his injured dog.

(Oh, and hey, if the beginning of this sounds familiar, two of our other callouts this year came at the tail end of trainings. It's lucky for us, though, since it means we get organized and deployed faster.)

Training: The Key To Success



Students practice litter carrying during Fundamentals.

WASART's Fundamentals and Animal Handling & Assessment took place in Buckley, WA on September 17th and 18th, respectively. Almost half of the twenty-nine members registered for the Fundamentals training were new members! The remaining members were fulfilling the requirement to recertify every three years to maintain deployment eligibility. Training topics included the legal aspects of being an emergency worker, deployment operations, basic communications, etc., and concluded with a mock base operations scenario.

The next day, seventeen Animal Handling & Assessment attendees enjoyed both classroom

instruction from veterinarians and WASART instructors and hands-on practice with live animals. As usual, the most fun part of the day was the hands-on learning provided by the horses, llamas, goats, rabbits, fowl, etc., that were 'volunteered' for teaching duty by their supportive owners. A paw-wrapping segment to protect cut or blistered paws finished up the day.

As soon as these members complete the on-line learning modules for both classes and complete their Mandatory Independent Self-Study Requirements, (i.e., First Aid/CPR, tetanus vaccination, and FEMA on-line classes), they will be deployment eligible.

Fundamentals and Animal Handling & Assessment will be offered again on February 4, 2017 and March 25, 2017. More information and registration forms will be posted to the Calendar on WASART's [website](#) as plans are finalized. In the interim, if anyone is interested in obtaining more information about WASART's training opportunities, open to applicants 16 years old and older, please contact the Training Director at training@washingtonsart.org.



WASART members train with the tripod from [Häst Large Animal Rescue Equipment](#) during Fundamentals.

Annual Exercise Cements Skills Learned Throughout the Year



A member signs her animals in during intake practice from last year's Annual Exercise.

Since 2008, WASART has organized an Annual Exercise held in October that challenges participants to experience the joys and frustrations of setting up and operating a temporary emergency animal shelter.

This year's exercise will be held on October 15 with setup starting on the evening of October 14. The Annual Exercise is a free, one-day, full-scale animal shelter set up and operation exercise with live animals. Participants are comprised of WASART members as well as volunteers from various animal-related organizations, all of whom are exposed to various aspects of a large and small animal shelter operation.

Much will be learned and current skills will be put to the test, but the team building aspect will be just as important. All will improve WASART's ability to provide sheltering for companion animals and livestock.

Representatives of any animal-focused organization who wish to attend the Annual Exercise, either as a participant or observer, are encouraged to contact

training@washingtonsart.org.

2016-2017 Training Dates



We're wrapping up 2016's training with just a couple of events left:

You can register at <http://bit.ly/WASART2016>

2016 Training Dates

Communications Workshop – October 1

The Annual Exercise – October 15

Register at <http://bit.ly/WASART2016>

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.

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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