

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](#)



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Helping Animals & Their Owners in Disasters

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From The President

Flooding, Hiking Are Spring Dangers



In addition to dangers such as flooding and hiking dangers, spring also brings the first round of training for the year. The Animal Handling & Assessment class held at [Remlinger Farms](#) allowed for extra practice at managing recalcitrant alpacas.

Well, Spring is taking its sweet time to arrive in here the Northwest. We've had glimpses of a sunny future, but still lots of rain and gray days for now. I'm sure Mother Nature will 'change her clothes' here soon enough, and we'll start seeing more people and their animals out and about enjoying the warmth and sunshine.

For those of us that do begin to spend more time outside, please remember to use caution as rivers and streams are high and moving swiftly; also, that hillsides may be muddy and unstable due to all the rain we've had. We've said this before, but we'll

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

June 14, 2017

[King County Office of Emergency Management](#)
3511 NE 2nd Street
Renton, WA 98056

September 13, 2017

[Shoreline Fire Department](#)

Station 61

17525 Aurora Avenue North
Seattle, WA 98133

December 13, 2017

[King County Office of
Emergency Management](#)

3511 NE 2nd Street
Renton, WA 98056

The General 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 or discussion session on a subject of interest to members. And, of course, some social time, too. All General Meetings are open to the public and everyone is invited to attend.

Upcoming training

Register at

<http://bit.ly/WASART2017>

**Emergency Animal
Sheltering**

April 22, 2017

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

30609 SE 352nd
Enumclaw, WA 98022

Transport

May 13, 2017

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Enumclaw Expo Center
45224 284th Ave SE
Enumclaw, WA

**Practical Communications
Workshop**

June 3, 2017

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Marymoor Park
Redmond, WA

**Technical Animal Rescue
(Awareness)**

June 24, 2017

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

Enumclaw Fire Station #42
35420 Veazie-Cumberland

keep saying it until we no longer receive calls for it – please keep your dogs on leashes! We would be thrilled to not have any callouts this year for dogs over cliffs or in ravines. But if it does happen, we will certainly be ready to help.

Shawndra Michell

President

Healing Injury Leaves Horse Needing Assistance



Buster just needed a little help getting to his feet.

On March 25th, just as we were arriving home from training, we received a call from our answering service requesting assistance for a horse cast in a shed.

We headed out to Orting, WA, after getting permission to deploy from the Pierce County officials. We found Buster lying in an open shed, attended by concerned family. He'd been down for a couple of hours already and was unable to get up on his own due to a healing injury.

Joining us on site was Buster's vet, Dr. Ashley

Road
Enumclaw, WA 98022

Open House (repeat)
August 27, 2017
10:00 - noon
Tacoma, WA

Fundamentals (repeat)
September 17, 2017
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Redmond, WA

Animal Handling & Assessment (repeat)
October 1, 2017
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Location TBD

Practical Communications Workshop (repeat)
October 7, 2017
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Fort Steilacoom Park
Lakewood, WA

Annual Exercise
October 14, 2017
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Enumclaw Expo Center
45224 284th Ave SE
Enumclaw, WA 98022

Outreach Events

No registration required.
Stop by and say hello!

May 20, 2017
[Auburn Petpalooza](#)
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Auburn Game Park Farm
3030 R Street SE
Auburn, WA

June 13, 2017
[Disaster Preparedness for Pets](#)
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Puyallup Central Library
324 S. Meridian
Puyallup, WA 98371

October 1
[Lake Forest Park Preparedness Fair](#)
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Galen of [Tacoma Equine Hospital](#). We'd recently met her at a WASART presentation during a hospital seminar, so she was familiar with our mission and capabilities.

Buster wasn't in immediate distress, and we were somewhat limited on responders. Rather than the divide-and-conquer scenario we've used in the past, we set up the tripod and lift system before rigging Buster.

Once that was in place, we pulled the straps for the sling under Buster so we could use them as handles to pull him on to the rescue glide. Before we had a chance to secure Buster to the glide he attempted to get up, causing him to slide down a bit. We grabbed a wide strap from our rescue the van and put a forward assist on him so we could pull him back onto the glide.

We think the family deserves a big shout-out here. It was very helpful to have them lending some muscle as well as giving Buster a sense of familiarity while he lay in a vulnerable position with all the noises and strange people surrounding him. Additionally, Buster had an anxious herd mate nearby, a gray mare that one of the family members kept occupied and safely out of the way.

Dr. Galen gave Buster a light dose of sedation to help him out, and to keep us safer. The sedation would keep Buster from trying to stand while we strapped him to the glide. We were very careful of his injury. We also did not hobble or attempt to manipulate his feet. We had plenty of room to maneuver him without having to pull the legs in.

Dr. Galen acted as our animal attendant, keeping Buster from trying to get up by kneeling on his neck, as well as letting him know he wasn't alone.

Once Buster securely on the glide, all available people pulled him from under the shed to under the tripod where the team attached him to the lift bar and unstrapped him from the glide. Anyone not otherwise occupied jumped on the haul team.

Lake Forest Park Town Center
17171 Bothell Way NE
Lake Forest Park, WA 98155

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.



Buster was raised to his feet. He hung for a small amount of time, as horses often do before they realize they aren't laying down anymore. We gradually put more and more weight on his feet and the anxiously watching humans gave a palpable sigh of relief. Buster began grazing, always a good sign from a horse.

Finally, we let him stand a bit. Dr. Galen was satisfied with his condition and we cautiously packed up, leaving the rigging and tripod for last in case Buster went down again.

We headed home after a debrief and a short equipment sorting and inventory session, leaving Buster to rediscover his favorite patch of grass in his owners' back yard.

Congrats to two of our new members, for whom this was their first deployment.

Partnering with the City of Puyallup



WASART continues to work with EOCs so that we can be an important part of disaster response.

WASART was delighted to accept Emergency Manager Patrick Donovan's invitation to the City of Puyallup's first Emergency Operation Center's

th

Partner Meeting on March 29 . Michaela E. and Gretchen M. met with representatives from local organizations including Southhill Mall, Multicare, Puyallup School District, Pierce College, South Sound CERT and Southsound 911. Each organization gave a brief presentations to introduce themselves, their mission, and capabilities. Afterwards, everyone joined a tour of the facility. It was a very pleasant visit, and WASART is pleased to have a better understanding of the assets each organization will bring to the table in the event of a disaster in Puyallup.

Culture of Preparedness: Disaster Edition



WASART volunteers practice unloading and loading carts of kennels as part of developing written procedures to assure a smooth operation when the need arises.

Here in Western Washington, hardly a day passes without hearing about emergency preparedness. The main concern is being prepared for the next earthquake when it happens, and it will. It's not the only possible disaster, though, as the 2014 Oso mudslide demonstrated.

In addition to WASART's work helping individual

animals who are in distress, our mission includes emergency animal sheltering when people and their animals are displaced. To this end, we work closely with county and state emergency management agencies. These agencies' emergency plans include specific roles for WASART. We strive to be ready to assume those responsibilities when needed.

To that end, we are constantly training and making sure that our sheltering equipment is ready for use. This includes one full-scale sheltering exercise that we hold yearly, and smaller ones which allow us to practice specific skills such as loading and unloading our sheltering trailers.

This year's annual exercise is tentatively scheduled for October 21 and is open to all who wish to attend.

In addition a one-day sheltering training is scheduled for April 22. (See following article for more on sheltering training.)

Class Introduces Volunteers to Technical Rescue



Volunteers interested in technical rescue attended WASART's first Ropes 1 class which included hands-on practice, seen here.

In response to increasing interest in the Technical

Rescue Team, WASART held its first Ropes 1 class in March. Although our monthly technical rescue practices are open to all members, the Technical Rescue Committee recognizes that the specialized technical knowledge required to run rigging systems can be daunting. Ropes 1 was designed to introduce members to the basics of rigging and safety in a fun, low-pressure setting.

Students learned the basics of technical rescue, including knots; mechanical advantage systems for raising, lowering, and belaying; general physics of technical rescue; and safety during a rescue operation. Students had the chance to learn even more through the hands-on practice.

The class's maximum of 25 students was met almost immediately following the announcement. Most Technical Rescue Team members were available to assist, keeping the ratio of students to teachers and equipment low and providing students with plenty of opportunity to practice their new skills.

Though students finishing the class are not immediately qualified to set up rigging systems during a rescue, they have taken a huge first step. We hope Ropes 1 students will feel confident enough to make attending technical rescue practice a fun and comfortable experience. The success of the class, as well as strong continued interest means there will be another opportunity to attend Ropes 1 in the near future.

Upcoming Class

April 22: Emergency Animal Sheltering



Get qualified to work in an emergency animal shelter while deployed for WASART!

If you just can't wait until October to jump in and start preparing for your next sheltering deployment, join us on Saturday, April 22nd for our Emergency Animal Sheltering training! We will not be using live animals in this course, instead focusing on planning, mobilizing, and demobilizing sheltering equipment and resources. Emergency "victims" are still needed, though, so participants are welcome to bring a stuffed animal to "shelter" for the exercise.

Topics include Shelter Operations, Animal Decontamination, Animal First Aid and Psychology, Basic Animal Care, and Fire Hazard Awareness. Participants will complete a tabletop training exercise based on our location (a beautiful farm owned by long-time WASART member and supporter, Dr. Heather), and then have the opportunity to set up, run, and demobilize their own "ideal" shelter using WASART's emergency sheltering equipment.

This class integrates theory and hands-on experience, so bring your personal protective equipment.

Time: sign-in at 8:30 a.m. Class: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Tuition: \$65.00; \$32.50 for recertifying WASART members; \$95.00 for non-members

Location: Dr. Heather's farm in Enumclaw, WA.
(Private residence, address provided before the class.)

Register online here: <http://bit.ly/WASART2017>

Or print and snail mail
version: <http://bit.ly/Download-N-PrintWASART2016>

For more info, contact:
registrar@washingtonsart.org.

GiveBIG May 10



Get ready to GiveBIG on May 10, 2017.

The cost of running WASART adds up – from the specialized equipment needed for the deployments to the advanced training that makes us safer and more effective to the upkeep of the vehicles and even insurance. As an all-volunteer donation-supported 501(c)(3), the only way we can save animals is through the generosity of donors.

We're very excited to be able to participate in the one day GiveBIG event put on by the nonprofit Seattle Foundation on May 10.

We get a boost

The great part about being involved in this event is all donations get a boost from the Seattle Foundation at the end of the drive. Mark your calendars! GiveBIG will stretch a portion of all donations that day. Every dollar means more on May 10.

Worried you'll forget?

You can also schedule a donation starting April 27 on the [GiveBIG website](#).

Check out more info on the GiveBIG website and follow the #giveBIG tag on social media to see what everyone else is up to.

If you or your business would like to help with matching challenges, please contact [Gretchen](mailto:Gretchen@washingtonsart.org) at info@washingtonsart.org.

2017 Training Dates



2017 TRAINING

- OPEN HOUSE**
January 7, August 27th
- FUNDAMENTALS**
February 4, September 17
- ANIMAL HANDLING & ASSESSMENT**
March 25th, October 1
- EMERGENCY SHELTERING**
April 22
- TRANSPORT**
May 13
- TECHNICAL ANIMAL RESCUE**
TDB
- ANNUAL EXERCISE**
October 21 (tentative)

 Sign up at <http://bit.ly/WASART2017>

Open House – August 27th (no registration needed)

Fundamentals – September 17th (repeat)

Animal Handling & Assessment – 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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