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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

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### From The President

## "Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night" isn't just for the mail carrier



*Snoqualmie Falls, Wa. Photo ©2006 Walter Siegmund, shared under CC 3.0.*

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

**March 8, 2017**

[Milton Public Library](#)  
900 Meridian Avenue East  
Milton, WA 98354

Mid-winter in the Pacific Northwest has not let us down this year – we've had our share of rain, snow, ice, flooding, wind, mudslides, and even some sunshine! Like always, WASART is practicing, preparing and responding to callouts. Thank goodness for our waterproof gear!

Did you know that rights for animals are not included in the US Constitution? This means that states, counties and cities are responsible to create and enforce animal protection laws. With the 2017 Legislative Session currently active, now is a great

(entrance at rear of library)

**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>

#### **Animal Handling & Assessment**

**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.  
Enumclaw, WA

#### **Paw Wrapping Workshop**

**May 6, 2017**

10:00 a.m. - noon  
Location TBD

#### **Transport**

**May 13, 2017**

time to see what may be happening in your city and county. [What's happening on the floor?](#) is a great resource to find out details, dates, etc., to keep yourself informed about our state legislature. Depending on what is important to you, it could be an opportunity to be a voice for those not able to speak for themselves.

Shawndra Michell  
President

## Raise the Hoof: WASART's First Annual Fundraiser



Help us celebrate past and future rescues at [March 11th's Raise the Hoof.](#)

Join us for an afternoon of catered vegetarian appetizers, wine, and inspiring stories, all to raise money to help the Washington State Animal Response Team!

- Talk by Dr. Mary Schoenfeldt
- Auction
- 50/50 Raffle
- Pictures with one of our training mannequin horses
- Wine pull
- Bonnie Towne, owner of Lager, one of our rescues

Auction items so far include a stay for a weekend at the beautiful [Mountain Goat Lodge](#) in Salida, CO and a week long stay in Mexico.

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.  
Cumberland Fire Station  
Enumclaw, WA

**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

March 11, 2017

4 pm-6 pm

\$45 | [Get your tickets](#)

[Point Defiance Pagoda](#)

5801 Trolley Lane  
Tacoma, WA 98407

Interested in hosting your own table? Each table can accommodate up to 8-10 people. We have some tools to help you out as well. Contact [Carrie Lee at event@washingtonsart.org](#)

Don't think you can manage to round up a whole table's worth? That's fine. Let us know and we'll seat you and your guests at another half table for instant new friends!

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## Training with Technical Large Animal Rescue Expert in Bend, OR



*Dr. Rebecca Gimenez, in the orange hat and camo jacket, instructs using WASART's tripod and training mannequin, Joey.*

Members from WASART's Technical Rescue Team had the opportunity to train with [Dr. Rebecca Gimenez](#), of Macon, GA., in Bend, OR on the weekend of February 11. Dr. Gimenez is an expert in technical large animal rescue and teaches workshops for nonprofits, fire departments,

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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.



veterinarians, and others around the world.

Each day of the two day class consisted of a half day of classroom instruction and a half day of hands-on work in a nearby arena. WASART's team brought equipment so all students, even those just getting started could have a chance to practice. We had the opportunity to work with rescued mustangs as well, which were certainly three of the least wild animals we've had the pleasure to rig.

A number of other organizations attended, including several fire departments, Oregon search and rescue volunteers, Sheriff's department officers, and more nonprofits. A big thanks to Kate of [Mustangs to the Rescue](#) for organizing it all and letting us attend!

Oh, and hey, [we made it on the local news](#), too! (Okay, so the video has some minor inaccuracies, but we're glad the class got some recognition.)

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## Fundamentals Training Well Attended



*Trainees practice litter carrying.*

WASART's first training of the year was held at the Kirkland Fire Department's Station 26 on February 4th. Twenty-three participants supported by six

WASART instructors were introduced to subjects such as how to assist and stay safe in the field, how an operation is run, how to avoid biohazards inherent in animal rescue, command structure, radio skills, and more. They also learned the proper and safe techniques to carry a litter, and to provide muscle when on a line haul team — in the rain of course, as is appropriate to our western Washington climate. While the majority of the attendees were taking the class for the first time, four attendees were recertifying in Fundamentals, as members are required to do every three years.

Several current members of the King County Search & Rescue community were present as were several veterinarians and veterinarian technicians from Whatcom, King and Pierce Counties. Our membership continues to grow and attract members from various backgrounds who bring a wealth of experience to the WASART table, all of which greatly enhances WASART's ability to more effectively respond to crises or emergencies that afflict the animal communities we serve.

The next Fundamentals training, which is a mandatory training for members who wish to deploy into the field on technical rescue incidents, will be repeated on September 17th at a location still to be finalized. Early [registration](#) for this and other upcoming WASART training opportunities is encouraged to ensure there is sufficient seating and materials for all trainees.

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## The Other Side of Kindness



*Dr. Dana examining the hoof on the leg with the old injury.*

On January 30th, WASART deployed appropriately qualified responders to help WASART member [Dr. Dana Bridges Westerman](#), who was acting in her private capacity as a veterinarian, with an elderly cow who had been down in the pasture and seemed unable to stand. The responding team went out expecting to set up the tripod and lift the cow to her feet, but ended up helping handle the cow during Dr. Dana's examination.

The cow had a very old injury to her right hind leg and now was having trouble with her left hind as well. She was about 300 pounds overweight but was able, with help, to rise and stand on her own long enough for Dr. Dana to send a video to the owner (who was out of town) so a decision could be made. It was difficult for the cow to stand. She couldn't keep weight comfortably on her old injured leg and the other, previously working leg couldn't take weight now either.

The cow was about twenty years old (very old for a cow) and though she was not a pet, she was sweet and allowed examination. With advice from Dr. Dana, the owner decided that the kind thing was to send her on her way over the Rainbow Bridge.

Thanks to those who responded. It's not always a happy outcome, but we can be there to help the owner in making a decision.

## March 25: Animal Handling & Assessment



*Get qualified to handle animals while deployed for WASART or gain some new skills to help you in your everyday life!*

This training is geared towards animal rescue and evacuation in emergency situations. The training consists of online classes and onsite training. Registrants must complete the online segments and the onsite training to be credentialed in Animal Handling & Assessment. Links to the online segments will be provided before the in-person class; there will not be an additional cost for the online instruction.

The onsite training topics include:

- Small & Large Animal Handling
- Animal Assessment for Transport
- Paw Wrapping

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: TBD

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](mailto:registrar@washingtonsart.org).

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## 2017 Training Dates



**Open House** – August 27th (no registration needed)

**Fundamentals** – 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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