

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

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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.

[Donate](#)

General Meetings

September 13, 2017

[Shoreline Fire Department](#)

Station 61

17525 Aurora Avenue North

Seattle, WA 98133

December 13, 2017

From The President

Education Is Part Of The Mission



July is upon us and I hope you and your animals all made it through the fireworks unscathed! I love a good celebration as much as the next person, but when my neighborhood begins to sound like a war zone, I stop having fun. We can hope though, that more and more people will turn to silent fireworks, or something else less stressful for animals, some veterans, and people like me that just don't appreciate hours and hours of loud explosions.

OK, enough of my complaining – let's get to the business at hand of rescuing animals in disasters and preparing for future events. Between fires, tornadoes, hurricanes, criminal situations and animals over cliffs or stuck in mud, this is a busy time for responders. All the classes, hands-on training, exercises and preparation are paying off, as you'll read below.

[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>

Open House (repeat)(free)

August 27, 2017

10:00 - noon
Pierce County Office of
Emergency Management
2501 S. 35th Street
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

WASART volunteers are not only busy preparing themselves for an animal rescue, but are also busy with community outreach. Many of our volunteers give educational presentations, or spread the word about WASART at various public events. It's one of the important ways that we help others become more prepared, which of course, helps animals and their people in a rescue situation.

Be safe, and be well!

Shawndra Michell

President

Note from the editors: Local news station King 5 published [a great article on disaster prep](#) recently.

**Clarence The Mule In Mud Extracted,
Lifted**

Outreach Events

No registration required.
Stop by and say hello!

August 26, 2017

[Barktoberfest](#)

9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Roegner Park
601 Oravetz Road SE
Auburn, WA

September 9, 2017

[Doggiestock](#)

Noon - 6:00 p.m.

Toll Gate Farm Park
1300 W. North Bend Way
North Bend, WA

September 30, 2017

[Maple Valley Community
Emergency Preparedness Fair](#)

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Rock Creek Elementary School
25700 Maple Valley-Black
Diamond Road SE
Maple Valley, WA 98038

September 30, 2017



Clarence at the top of the slope being rigged for the lift.

We had a call on Saturday, June 24 around 9:30 PM, not long after the end of Technical Rescue training. Clarence, a ~1600 lb. draft mule found himself down a slope, stuck in mud, and unable to get out. There was a creek at the bottom of the slope, and Clarence could not get enough traction to climb out. Local firefighters had arranged boards and hay to raise Clarence out of the creek, but they did not have the equipment to get the mule back up the slope.

The first WASART responders arrived on scene at about 11:50 PM, and the equipment van, coming from Enumclaw, arrived about midnight.

The mule was not far from where we could park the van, making the ferrying of equipment easy. The property owner had a light set up, illuminating

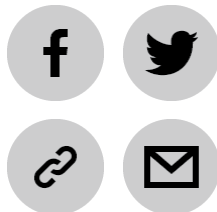
[Peninsula Emergency Preparedness Fair](#)

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Gig Harbor High School
5101 Rosedale Street NW
Gig Harbor, WA 98332

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.



Clarence as he lay on his side.

Attending Clarence was Dr. Ashley Trtek of [Professional Equine Therapeutic Services](#), who met us as she held a bag of IV fluids. (Animals in distress can easily become dehydrated, a dangerous situation for equines.) Clarence raised his head a bit and vocalized a hello at responder Bill V. who we sent to help attend Clarence as other responders prepared the systems to bring him up the slope. Dr. Trtek kept Clarence under light sedation so that he would not struggle too much.

The plan was in two phases: haul the mule up the slope then raise him to his feet with the tripod if he couldn't stand on his own, which was very likely the case after laying on his side as long as he had. (Fortunately, they had been rolling Clarence so that he had not been down on one side the whole time.)

We rigged a system for each phase. We set up the tripod between the van and the slope, using it first as a high-angle redirect to haul the mule up the slope, and then to lift Clarence to his feet.

Below, the team prepped Clarence by strapping him to the Rescue Glide. Rigging Clarence was somewhat difficult due to the soft, muddy ground under his body. This was also a case where we were unable to tuck Clarence's legs in due to his arthritis, a fairly common situation. The haul path up the hill was wide enough so that this did not present a problem; we only had to watch his legs to make sure they did not catch on vegetation.

The raise was slow going, Clarence is a big boy. The haul team was up to it though, and it went smoothly.

Finally up the slope, we dragged the rescue glide and Clarence directly under the tripod and attached the straps of the Becker sling to our recently-acquired quick release spreader bar. After that, the raise to his feet went quickly. We released some of

the tension on the sling.

Equines will lose feeling and muscle strength when they are down for hours as Clarence had been. Although sometimes that can mask more serious problems, Clarence balanced himself after a short time and was able to stand on his own.

We let him rest a bit, then released him from the sling. Still groggy from the medication, he was walked to his stall. Dr. Trtek checked him out and made arrangements to return the next day to see how he was doing once the medication wore off.

We debriefed and packed up, heading home as the sun was about to rise. The last responders arrived home around 6:30 AM Sunday morning.



Clarence says goodbye and thanks for the help.

**St. Bernard With Heat Exhaustion
Evacuated**



On July 8 we received a call for a St. Bernard with heat exhaustion up Greider Lake Trail, a long and steep 4.5 mile trail in Snohomish County.

As we got ready to deploy, we suggested to the owner, who made the call, that he contact Dr. Dana Westerman of [Professional Equine Therapeutic Services](#) so she could administer medical assistance. Heat exhaustion is serious business especially on a large dog with a heavy coat.

One reason we love Dr. Dana is because she's willing and capable of heading up a trail on behalf of an injured animal. We received a call back soon after the initial call saying Dr. Dana had brought a number of volunteers, and that we weren't needed. (The group include Dr. Ashley Trtek who had assisted us a couple of nights before with a mule named Clarence.) By that time, our litter was already on the way up the trail.

We stood down, as we can't deploy on our own without the permission of an owner or law enforcement. The owner calling back to tell us we weren't needed counted as removal of permission.

A few hours later we received a text from Dr. Dana saying she needed more hands. We sent our responders out to help. The trailhead is ten miles past Sultan, WA, so it there was some travel time

involved.

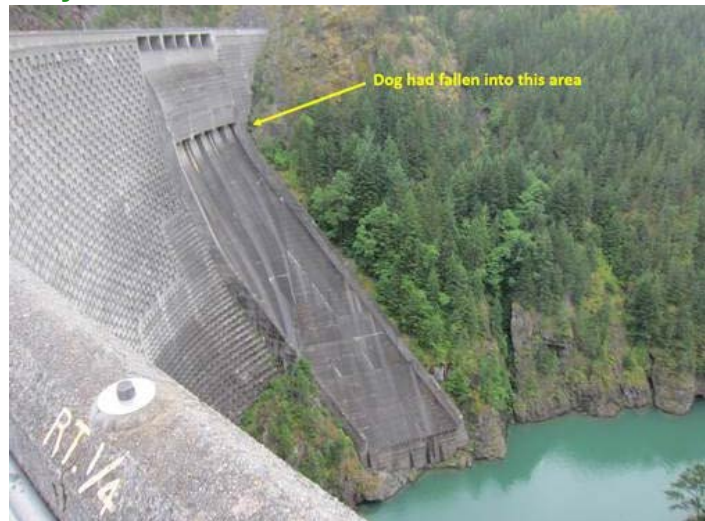
We arrived when Dr. Dana, owners, volunteers, and a second St. Bernard were .75 miles from the trailhead, the worst part of the trail behind them. We'd borrowed a wheel for the litter from Snohomish Search and Rescue, which made the remainder of the exit from the trail faster and a bit safer. Dr. Dana and her crew had done the hardest part.

Once at the trailhead, Zeus was loaded into Dr. Dana's truck and sped off to Pilchuck Animal Hospital along with one of the owners.

The other owner stayed behind as his vehicle would not start. We agreed to stay with him until the tow truck arrived, follow him to town and help him run errands and get settled for the evening. This included a stop at Pilchuck to see how Zeus was doing. He was more alert, but his condition was concerning.

Zeus would end up staying under vet supervision for about four days but was eventually discharged.

July: Rescues And Turnarounds



We received this photo along with a request for

assistance for a dog that had gone over a dam.

Some months have ten or so calls that end up being referrals, not requiring a WASART deployment. July has been a hot month both in weather and in calls. Here's a sample of calls we received that did not end up requiring a response from WASART:

- Horse in pond – self-rescued
- 3 Horses in a different pond – self-rescued
- Horse stuck a chicken coop – self-rescued
- Horse down in a pasture – owner rolled horse so he could stand
- Cow collapsed in pasture on July 4 – euthanized
- Dog over a dam in Whatcom County – passed away before we could respond
- Cat stuck in brambles – cat turned out to be in a tree. Arborist called.
- Cat in tree – referred to the excellent [Canopy Cat Rescue](#)
- Dog over embankment in Monroe – dog self-rescued
- Dog over cliff, passed away of injuries, in Magnolia, a suburb of Seattle – acquaintance of owner retrieved before we could make it.

And though we don't do wildlife, sometimes we get calls. For example this July so far:

- Angry raccoon stuck in fence – referred to wildlife agency
- Baby raccoon on side of road – referred to wildlife agency

Special shoutout to [Regional Special Vehicles Unit](#) came to our rescue with their ATVs to assist with the haul for one of the almost-rescues!

Improving Equine Vet Relations



Area equine veterinarians being shown WASART's box van, which is equipped to help extract animals from difficult situations

WASART presented at July's monthly meeting of the Cascade Equine Veterinary Nexus, a professional group for equine veterinarians. WASART members Michaela E. and Greta C. went over what WASART could do for veterinarians and their clients while member Dr. Kelli Taylor discussed how a veterinarian could assist WASART through sedation and hydration. We also showed the doctors the equipment van and resources we can bring to help their clients.

The meeting was graciously hosted by [The Grange](#) in Issaquah, a nursery and feed store. The Grange provided pizza and drinks for the participants. We're also appreciative of a generous donation from the Grange.

It was great to meet new veterinarians and get reacquainted with old friends alike. Thank you to the CEVN and the Grange for having us out!

Planning For Future Wildfires



WASART at a temporary small animal shelter in Brewster, WA August 2015

In recognition of the past several seasons of wildland fire destruction in Eastern Washington, and with the threat of another such season looming, [Chelan County Office of Emergency Management](#) and the [Appleatchee Riders](#) have been working on developing a Wildland Fire Evacuation Plan and Exercise. At the invitation of Stan Smoke, Chelan County's Emergency Management Specialist, Julie S. has been representing WASART at the various planning meetings over the past several months.

After much planning, the exercise was held on July 14th and included participation by veterinary students from the Washington State University, Appleatchee members, Chelan County Office of Emergency Management, and Julie S. from WASART. In the first half of the exercise, the veterinary students were given the Appleatchee Wildfire Evacuation Plan the night before and tasked with implementing the Evacuation Plan as though there was no one else available to execute it. In the second half, the students practiced executing the plan.

Julie S. attended the both parts of the exercise on July 14 and acted as an observer to help evaluate the success of the Evacuation Plan. In the first exercise, the students set up an incident command structure, acted as horse owners who

had arrived to pick up their horses, or acted as traffic controllers or barn representatives tasked with making sure horses were loaded safely and by the appropriate person. In the second exercise, students set up a mock emergency animal shelter

As with any exercise, there were a few problems with traffic control, communication, and paperwork. This is why planning and exercises is so crucial – to find the gaps in communication or planning so that when we implement a full-scale operation, the gaps have been filled.

Although WASART responded to Chelan and Okanogan Counties during the 2014 and 2015 wildland fire seasons to establish temporary emergency animal shelters, and is prepared to respond again if requested to do so, having the local population trained and ready to respond to an emergency is always preferable. We applaud Chelan County's foresight in acknowledging and planning for the dangers it faces during the fire season.

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)

Communications Practice – Oct 7

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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