

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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From The President

10 Years of Rescue



This year saw another WASART first: our first fundraising event, Raise the Hoof; Paws up for Animals. More on this next month – we're still tidying up the details!

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

Happy 10th anniversary, WASART!! We held our first fundraiser on March 11, 2017 to coincide with our anniversary, and it was an outstanding success. Between the venue, the food, the wine, the auction items, the animals and the people – it really was an amazing event. Every WASART volunteer went above and beyond to make the afternoon fun, pleasant and informative for everyone in attendance.

I also send a special thank you to our guest speakers Dr. Mary Schoenfeldt and Bonnie Towne; their messages were heartfelt and inspiring.

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.
Remlinger Farms,
32610 NE 32nd
Carnation, WA 98014

Emergency Animal Sheltering

April 22, 2017

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
30609 SE 352nd
Enumclaw, WA 98022

Paw Wrapping Workshop

May 6, 2017

10:00 a.m. - noon

Location TBD

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

I am so grateful to everyone who gave their time, their energy and their money to help this incredible organization. Because of this generosity, we will continue to assist animals and their owners when they need us most. I'm passionate about our mission, and based on the comments and response from Saturday, I'm definitely not alone.

The work we do is powerful, and can change lives for the better – including our own. Even if you weren't able to attend the event, you can still make a donation here: www.washingtonsart.org/donate

Thank you for 10 incredible years, and here's to many, many more!

Shawndra Michell
President

WASART's Very First Call



MISSY
WASART's First Response



*It is said that people never forget their first love.
While I don't know if that is true, I do know that I will
never forget WASART's first deployment which took*

**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

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.

place on December 18, 2008, only 10 months after WASART's founding. --Gretchen McCallum, Co-founder of WASART

On December 18th, WASART was called out by King County Animal Control and an on-call vet to see what we could do to get a mare, who was in a weakened state and had been lying in mud for over two days, up on her feet. The mare's name was Missy. We responded immediately and Greta and Lynn arrived on the scene within 30 minutes. Greta brought WASART's Go Bag that was replete with 18' of discarded fire hose with holes punched into the ends for rope insertion, 6', 8' and 10' lengths of 1" webbing, a tarp, emergency blankets, duct tape, and other essentials needed to assist the mare. Several 50' lengths of 700 lb weight rope were also available. Gretchen hooked up her three horse slant trailer, attached the dividers to the walls to make an open trailer, and arrived with Barbara about 15 minutes after Greta and Lynn.

After discussing the situation with the Animal Control Officer and the veterinarian and her assistant, we decided that the mare needed to be hauled backwards into the trailer so that, later, the vet would be able to feed and water her after building a sling inside the trailer to support the weakened mare when she was lifted to her feet. The pliable fire hose was threaded under the mare's hind quarters and she was flipped over onto her other side and on top of a tarp. The fire hose was then pulled tight until both ends were even.

Barbara and the veterinarian assistant found some scrap plywood and 2"x4" boards and a ramp was made up to the trailer. The veterinarian jerry-rigged a pulley system inside the trailer and then wrapped a towel around the mare's head to protect her head and eyes from the mud. Then, the five of us gradually hauled the mare on the tarp up the ramp and into the trailer.

After trailering the mare back to the vet's for



treatment, she attempted to eat a little hay but was too weak to get to her feet and remained laying on her side in the trailer, covered by an emergency blanket for warmth. Sadly, Missy was in too weakened a condition to recover and she died a couple hours later.

In August of 2007, the Technical Large Animal Rescue training that Greta and I attended, taught by John and Deb Fox, founders of the [Large Animal Rescue Company, Inc.](#), and Felton County, CA firefighters, provided us with the expertise to do what was needed to try and save this mare. We were trained, as prepared as we could be with our minimal rescue equipment and supplies, and had excellent assistance from the veterinarian, her assistant, and the Animal Control Officer. That we did not completely succeed was regrettable and the mare's death saddened us all. That we all learned a great deal from this experience was well understood by everybody.

We have deployed many, many times in the past 10 years to all sorts of incidents involving horses in distress, but the Missy deployment is one deployment close to my heart. She taught us so much, knowledge that we have carried with us in the intervening years. Rest in peace, little mare. --GM

WASART's Very Latest Call



It's been ten years of WASART and everything about this picture shows how we've grown. Better techniques, better equipment, ten years of experience and the biggest-hearted volunteers around. It is our privilege to have the opportunity to help horses such as Mike.

On February 25th, we received a request for assistance with a down horse in Snohomish County. Fortunately much of the team, along with the van, was gathered in Issaquah for a Duty Office/Call Coordinator training so it was a much faster deployment than had we all been at home.

Mike, a 22 year old horse, went down in his stall sometime the previous evening and was unable to get to his feet unaided. Dr. Ron Colton, of [Evergreen Equine Veterinary Practice](#), advised us that he was on site, and that Mike was healthy and should be able to stand on his own if we could get him up.

We arrived on scene and split into two groups: one group was to work on rigging Mike so that we could maneuver him out of his stall, and the other was to work on getting the tripod set up and rigged in the pasture close to Mike's barn.

Dr. Colton helped Mike relax with some sedative and the horse was patient with our straps and hobbles. The stall team decided to move him out of the barn sooner rather than later, as we were

working against the sedative wearing off. The plan was to move Mike onto the glide and pull him out quickly with minimal fuss.

The tripod team took a small break to lend some muscle to the stall team and get Mike out of the barn so that he could be rigged for the lift, then they returned to setting up the tripod.

Once the tripod was up and the haul line was ready, we pulled Mike the remaining short distance to the tripod and attached the quick release bar to the lifting straps that we had placed around Mike. The haul team pulled in one smooth pull, lifting Mike to his feet.

Horses tend to relax when suspended and may not even notice they are up, so the team encouraged him to get his feet under him and bearing weight. (This can take a while when a horse has been lying down for a long time, restricting blood flow to the muscles.) Once we were confident that Mike could stand on his own, we released him from the sling and he walked around a bit.

Dr. Colton check him out while he got some attention and hay. The team packed up, leaving the tripod for last in case Mike needed a bit more help.

We left Mike hanging out in his pasture, happily munching grass.

A big thanks to Dr. Colton for jumping in and being awesome to work with, the owner for trusting us with her sweet gelding, and Snohomish County Sheriff's Office for giving us the okay to help out.

Interested in joining? We have an Animal Handling & Assessment class coming up March 25.

See: <http://washingtonsart.org/training>

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: [Remlinger Farms](#)

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.

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.

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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