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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

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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

December 13, 2017

[Valley Regional Fire Authority](#)

Station 31

1101 D Street NE

Auburn, WA 98002

March 14, 2018

From The President

A Quiet Time of Year to be Thankful



We're especially thankful to our volunteers and animals and their owners that allow us to train with them.

Fall is my favorite time of year for many reasons – gorgeous colors, cooler days, clear nights, and a shared awareness of gratitude.

At WASART, we also see a 'pause' in the number of responses: we're between the summer heat dogs-over-cliffs incidents, and winter exposure and mud/flood related call-outs. This is a good time for reflection on what went well and what we can improve upon, and for gearing up for the next season. We have much to be grateful for! Our organization filled with talented, passionate people who are making life better, one animal at a time.

[King County Office of
Emergency Management](#)

3511 NE 2nd Street
Renton, WA 98056

June 13, 2018

[Shoreline Fire Department](#)

17525 Aurora Avenue N
Shoreline, WA 98133

September 12, 2018

Location TBD

December 12, 2018

[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>

January 6, 2018

Open House (free)

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Location TBD

February 10, 2018

**Base Support (f/k/a
Fundamentals)**

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

Location TBD

March 3, 2018

**Operations Support (f/k/a
Animal Handling &
Assessment)**

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

Location TBD

April 7, 2018

**Emergency Animal
Sheltering**

This year, I'm grateful for many things in my life, and my hope is that you are as well. May you all be surrounded by those you love (non-humans *definitely* included!), may you be safe and well, and may you find a few moments to reflect on all that has gone well for you, what can be improved upon, and all the things that you have to be grateful for.

In peace and gratitude,

Shawndra Michell

President

On the Ground with the ASPCA in St. Croix



At the request of the [ASPCA](#)® (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals®), WASART put out a call for responders to assist in setting up and operating a combined small and large animal shelter on the island of St. Croix in the American Virgin Islands while ASPCA responders conducted field rescues. The island was impacted by Hurricane Maria, leaving many animals lost or homeless. FEMA initially requested the ASPCA's assistance and expertise in rescue, sheltering, and placement. The ASPCA is currently working under the Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture.

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

June 2, 2018

Transport

9:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.
Enumclaw Expo Center
45224 284th Avenue SE
Enumclaw, WA 98022

August 27, 2018

Open House (repeat)

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Location TBD)

September 16, 2018

**Base Support (f/k/a
Fundamentals) (repeat)**

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

September 30, 2018

**Operations Support (f/k/a
Animal Handling &
Assessment) (repeat)**

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

October 20, 2018

Annual Exercise (free)

9:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.
Enumclaw Expo Center
45224 284th Avenue SE
Enumclaw, WA 98022

Outreach Events

No registration required.
Stop by and say hello!

Did you know we're
often available to talk
to your group about
WASART or disaster
prep?

The life-threatening Category 5 storm that pummeled the U.S. Virgin Islands in September put thousands of people and animals at risk and severely damaged St. Croix's largest animal shelter. More than 20 ASPCA responders have been working around the clock on the ravaged island to rescue companion animals including cats, dogs and horses in the field, and providing much-needed medical support for displaced animals.

Responder Bill V. was available and willing to go in with the first group of responders. He brings us this report of his experience.

As to be expected after a large-scale disaster such as Hurricane Maria, transportation of a heavy volume of aid workers and materials was a bit tricky at first. An initial first group of seventeen responders was divided into three teams who arrived on the island within days of each other.

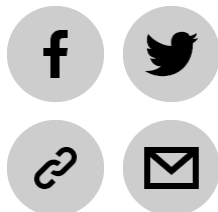
Equipment and supplies were hard to come by at first, and we used a covered area where we started to set up as soon as we were on the ground. There was no electricity and limited communications, but we did have a water truck on site. There were enough kennels, water dishes, feed, and other basic supplies to get the shelter operational. There was also a veterinarian on site for the sick and injured animals.

Animals began to trickle in, slowly at first, then more as the days progressed until we had over 100 cats & dogs and six horses. Shelter operation became more routine: keeping records, feeding, watering, cleaning kennels, walking dogs, grooming horses, and giving medical treatment. We were able to hand out dog food to local residents for a few days before we had to reserve what was left to feed the shelter animals. More food eventually arrived as did more shelter supplies and feed for other domestic animals. We resumed distribution.

Also helping in the relief efforts, Wings of Rescue

Mission Statement

To help animals and their owners through disaster preparedness, education, and emergency response.



helped to transport 51 homeless animals to Florida rescue groups as of this writing.

Conditions were difficult as we worked in hot, humid conditions with few comforts. But every member of the team gave 150% to care for the animals. FEMA provided lodging and food. It wasn't the Ritz, but the accommodations were very welcome after a hard day's work.

Jessica Rushin, partnerships senior manager for ASPCA Field Investigations & Response said, "The ASPCA's disaster response team is working tirelessly to support pet owners in need while caring for displaced animals at our emergency shelter, and we're grateful for our response partners, including WASART, whose support is critical to our operation. From hurricanes to wildfires, the ASPCA has deployed more than 200 responders to assist communities impacted by disasters throughout the U.S. and the Virgin Islands, and our collaborative efforts with WASART allows us to save countless animals impacted by disasters."

To date, more than 300 animals are receiving daily care at ASPCA emergency shelters, and approximately 6,000 animals impacted by Hurricane Maria have been assisted by the ASPCA through the distribution of pet supplies.

WASART is always pleased to send available responders when requested to do so by the ASPCA and we are happy to have contributed to this much-needed relief operation.

Major Milestones in Rescue Capability North of Seattle



Transferring the new tripod/bipod to the box van.

This past year has seen the culmination of multiple years of planning, saving, and fundraising in regards to expanding WASART's capacity to save lives through equipment acquisition and positioning.

At the beginning of the year, we were already in a good position thanks to generous past donors. For example, we haven't had our tripod/bipod for very long and it's been a game-changer for us. Tripods/bipods are used to give large animals like horses an assist when they can't get to their feet or extricate themselves from holes, mud, or other hazards.

Our major weakness with our setup as it's been is that WASART covers such a large geographic area that it often takes much longer than is good for an animal in crisis to wait. Our most complete set of equipment including the tripod/bipod is staged in Enumclaw near where about half of our rescues happen. If we get a call in Snohomish, where a majority of our remaining rescues happen, we need to get the equipment from Enumclaw to Snohomish County, a difficult feat during rush hour.

A long-term goal has been to mirror our Enumclaw system with one staged in Snohomish County, where we have space graciously allocated to us by the Snohomish Sheriff's Department. We've had a large portion of the equipment there, but not a complete set.

We're very close to being able to reach this goal.

This year we've been able to add a second tripod/bipod, newly-made and delivered. This piece of equipment will be housed in Snohomish County.

We've also purchased a new-to-us truck to help haul this new equipment around. It's 4WD, so we have less of a chance of getting stuck somewhere*, a risk with our current 2WD truck, which came to us surplus from King County.

Last but not least, we have two litter wheels to add this year. The first was purchased as a gift and the second (on order) is a result of a grant from the Laura J. Niles Foundation. A wheel makes carrying out a dog on a litter much easier. Rather than muscling our way up and down trails by splitting the weight of a dog and 30 lb. litter between 4-6 responders, the wheel takes the weight and the responders manage balance and braking.

Time saved on a rescue is lives saved, so we're pretty excited about this. Staging a more complete rescue setup in Snohomish County will be a gift to our future rescues from our past rescues, as well as from those who have previously donated.

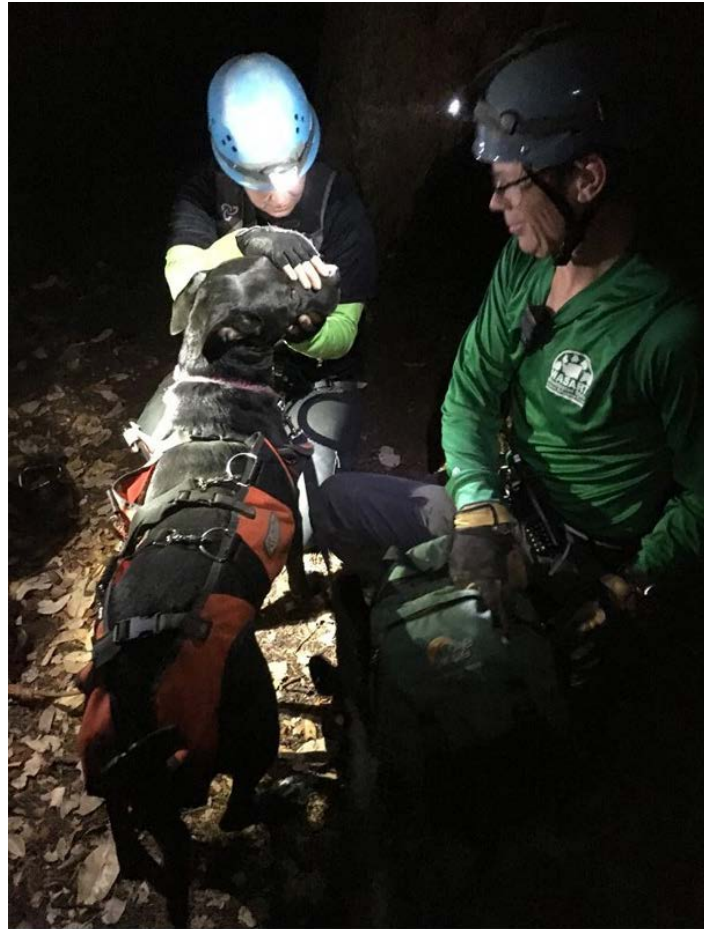
We look forward to sharing their stories.



We're looking forward to getting to great rescues in the "new" truck.

*This may or may not have happened in the past.
Okay, mostly may have.

Celebrate Giving Tuesday With WASART



#GIVINGTUESDAY™

Giving Tuesday lets us continue expressing thanks by encouraging us to all give to nonprofits helping make a difference.

This year, we're raising funds to equip the new-to-us truck. Here's what we'd like to add:

- A winch to be used as a mechanical advantage in hauling larger animals, increasing our capabilities

and sustained lifts. This is especially important when we have fewer people to help haul a rope.

- A canopy cover which will protect the gear that we bring onsite from the elements that afflict the PNW: rain doesn't mix well with radios, for example. We want to keep the equipment that you have so graciously funded in the best operational condition possible for as long as possible.

- Standing LED floodlights — If we exceed the cost for the first two items, we'll work toward a quieter lighting solution than the generator-run one we have now for night time rescues.

Our goal is to raise \$6000 on November 28.

Ways to contribute:

- Donate through our website
- Donate through Facebook, which is waiving fees for the day
- Check with your place of work to see if matching is offered
- Sponsor a match or a challenge. Matching funds provide encouragement to everyone to donate by extending gifts

We couldn't do any of this without you. Thank you from the team and on behalf of the animals who don't have the words to say so themselves.

**Island Pet Center,
Photographer Raise Funds for
WASART**



Santa gets a kiss from a young client.

What do pet lovers and pet stores with innovative and compassionate owners have in common? It's a desire to assist animal rescue organization meet their goals while also capturing a life-long memory of their beloved pets.

This recipe for success was recently achieved when Brian Knoll organized a 'Santa Picture Day' at Brian's [Island Pet Center](#) store in Oak Harbor, WA. In exchange for a donation to benefit WASART, pet owners would be photographed with their pets by professional local photographer, [Cynthia Woerner](#). About 50 people were photographed with Santa (Brian), most with dogs, although some families brought a cat, a rat, and even a snake! It was a fun event and Brian's Island Pet Center generously matched all donations for a total of \$1,286.00 to be used by WASART in meeting the needs of the

animal communities we serve across the state.

Thank you donors Brian and Cynthia for your generosity and thoughtfulness. Your donations will definitely be put to good use.



Not all of Santa's animal charges are mammals!

2018 Training Dates



Technical Rescue – Monthly, contact the [Technical Rescue Chair](#) for info

Register for 2018

Coming soon!

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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