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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](#)



Helping Animals & Their Owners in Emergencies

From The President

- [From "Disasters" to "Emergencies"](#)
- [Burned Paws on Mailbox Peak](#)
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From "Disasters" to "Emergencies"



Most of WASART's callouts are technical rescues, so the time has come to update the mission statement. Above, the technical team is practicing strapping Lily, owned by Joe C. (far left), into the litter during a recent training.

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 12, 2018

[Valley Regional Fire Authority](#)
1101 D Street, NE
Auburn, WA 98002

December 12, 2018

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

For the last eleven years, our mission statement has been "Helping Animals and Their Owners in Disasters". Since the beginning – just after Hurricane Katrina – our mission statement only mentioned animals in disasters, not crises, dangers, or emergencies. Over the years, we realized that we respond to much more than disasters (natural or human-caused), "Disasters" had become a limiting word. "Emergencies" is far more descriptive of what we actually do now.

Yes, we still respond and help animals in disasters, but we also respond to dogs over cliffs, livestock stuck in mud or down embankments, and much

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/WASART2018>

August 26, 2018

Open House (repeat)(free)

1:00 - 3:00 p.m. (Presentations at 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.)

[Pierce County Office of Emergency Management](#)

2501 S. 35th Street
Tacoma, WA 98409

September 15, 2018

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

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

[Foothills Veterinary Hospital](#)

28512 112th Street East
Buckley, WA 98321

September 16, 2018

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

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

[Foothills Veterinary Hospital](#)

28512 112th Street East
Buckley, WA 98321

October 20, 2018

Annual Exercise (free)

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

[Enumclaw Expo Center](#)

45224 284th Avenue SE
Enumclaw, WA 98022

more. While much of what we respond to would not technically be classified as a *major* disaster, they can most certainly be a disaster for the humans who love their four-legged friends. Times change, needs change, and WASART has adapted and changed too.

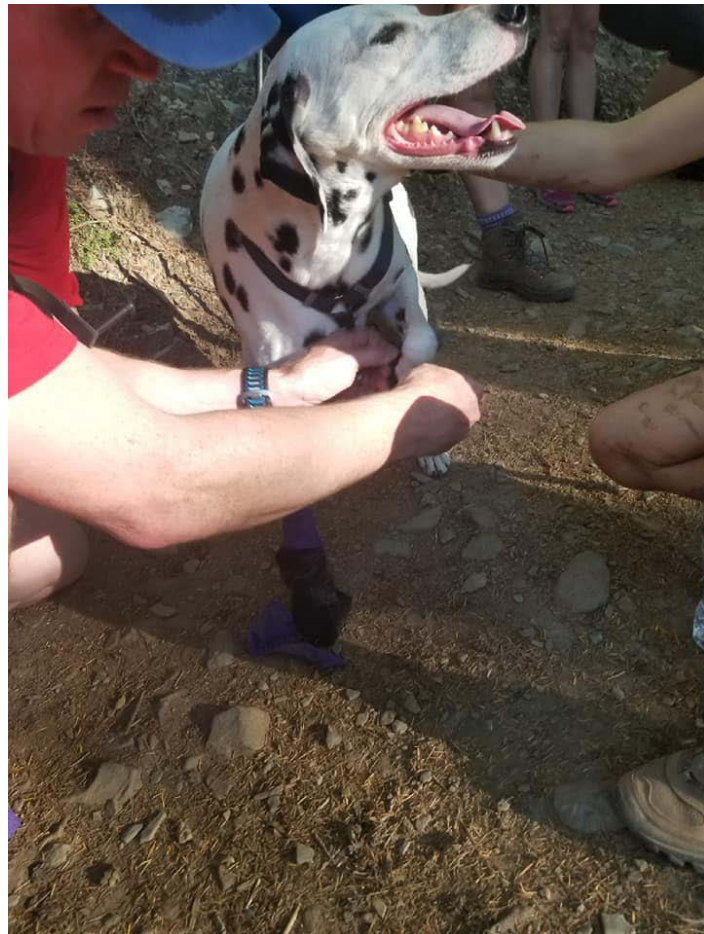
We present you with our new mission statement:

"Helping Animals and Their Owners in Emergencies"

Shawndra Michell,

President

Burned Paws on Mailbox Peak



Louie gets his paws wrapped so that he can walk out more comfortably. Photo via Seattle Mountain Rescue.

Outreach Events

No registration required.
Stop by and say hello!

August 25, 2018

[Barkfest](#)

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Roegner Park
601 Oravetz Road SE
Auburn, WA

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.



On Wednesday, July 25th, we got a call out for a dog on the Mailbox Peak Trail suffering from burnt paws and heat exhaustion. Mailbox Peak is a famously strenuous hike that is one of the more frequent places search and rescue is called to. Generally, it's human-related issues like broken ankles, lost hikers, or people who got stuck after dark without lights. For those not in Washington, the weather been unusually hot, resulting in calls for K-9 burned paws and heat exhaustion/stroke.

We headed out to join King County Explorer Search and Rescue ([ESAR](#)) and Seattle Mountain Rescue ([SMR](#)) under the direction of the [King County Sheriff's Office](#) to assist the owner and another hiker with a Dalmatian named Louie. An advance team consisting of SMR and ESAR members had been sent up to make contact with the subject and his human companions, assess the situation, and radio back to base with information. They'd met the party and helped care for the dog with water—both drinking and to wet the body—and other cooling techniques and were giving him some time to recover.

We arrived at the trailhead just in time to head up with rest of the team. ESAR had brought their litter and the wheel that attaches to it, and carried it up the trail in case we needed it. Partway up the 4000 ft elevation-gain trail, we heard on the radio the subject, companions, and advance SAR team were on the way down and we'd meet them along the way. Soon enough, Louie led his small team as they rounded a switchback. The humans taken turns carrying the dog at the beginning. After a while, one of the ESAR members had bandaged Louie's paws with socks and Coban/vet wrap which enabled Louie to make his way on his own down the trail. Louie did well walking on his own, so we took our time down the trail. At the bottom, the dog and his companions departed for the emergency vet. As always, we're grateful for the partnerships and friendships like those we have with ESAR and SMR that let us team

up on missions like this.

Wondering how to bandage damaged paws during a hike? We made you a [video](#). If you are curious about the hike: [Click Here](#).

Cloe Tumbles Down a Slope



Team members carry Cloe to the waiting vehicle for transport to the vet.

In the early afternoon on Saturday, July 7th, WASART received a call requesting help for an injured dog in Skagit county. Cloe, a 5-6 year old, 60 lb. boarder collie/heeler cross, had wandered away from camp and ended up falling 200 feet; part of the fall was vertical. Cloe was injured, but details were not known.

A call to respond was put out to qualified WASART volunteers and by 14:00 a team was formed and headed to Texas Pond Picnic Area, 5.6 miles north of the Darrington ranger station. The last four miles or so were over a rough gravel road, and was slow going for WASART's rescue equipment van. The first responders arrived on site at 16:15 and began assessing the situation; the equipment van arrived

at 16:47.

Radio communications between the van (base) and the team were established as the Technical Rescue Team (TRT) discussed several methods by which Cloe could be retrieved. The TRT finally decided that the best way to raise the injured dog would be to send a litter down with an attendant using a main lowering system and a belay system. Upon reaching Cloe, the attendant would muzzle her for safety and see that she was secure in the litter before lifting commenced.

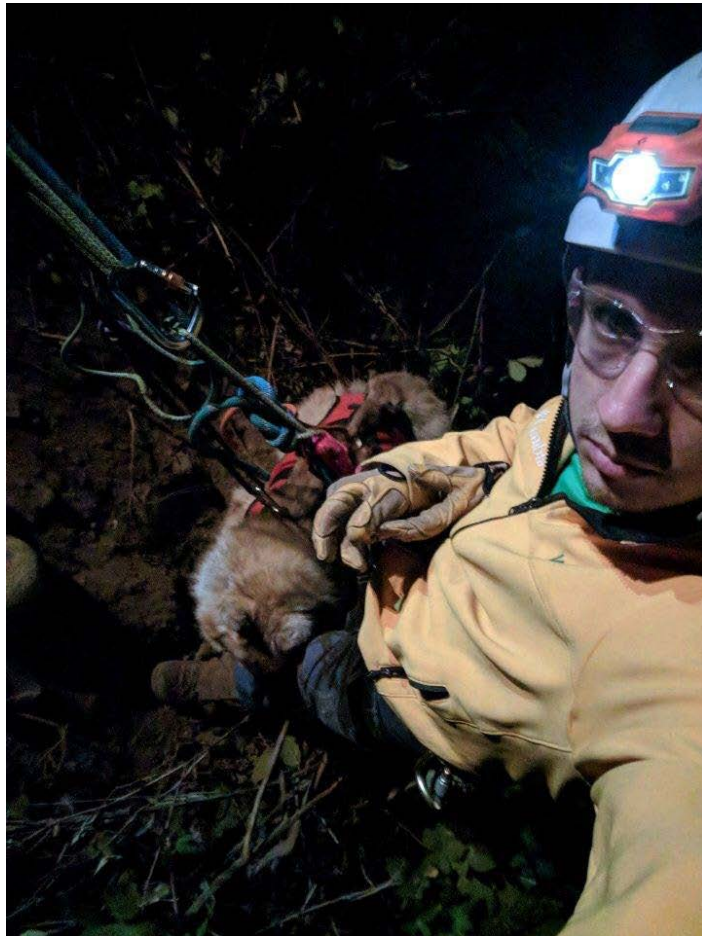
The lower went smoothly, with a few stops to clear brush out of the way. The attendant, Michael C., checked Cloe and determined that she probably had a broken leg at the least. It would be necessary to handle Cloe carefully while securing her in the litter. Meanwhile the rest of the team converted the rope systems for a raise. Cloe, attendant and litter were brought up without incident. Two of Cloe's people helped on the haul team.

Cloe's people had already notified [Veterinary Specialty Center](#) in Lynnwood that they would be bringing in an injured dog. After a short carry-out, Cloe was loaded into a car and taken directly to the vet. Cloe was well behaved in spite of her injuries and very glad to see her people.

An examination by the vet revealed that she had a broken shoulder and a broken leg. She underwent immediate surgery and she is expected to recover fully.

While we would always prefer that we rescue an uninjured animal, we are always pleased to be able to reunite any animal to its humans. This deployment was one such event and we are grateful that we were able to do so.

Cheyenne Gets a Lift



WASART Responder Valon, waiting for the raise.

On August 11th, we received a call for a dog down a steep slope in Arlington, WA. Cheyenne, a Husky, was 35-40 feet down and couldn't make it back up on her own.

We sent a call out to qualified members and had about nine responders on the way shortly thereafter. A couple of the Technical Rescue Team (TRT) members arrived just before it started to get dark, which made assessing the situation easier and the rescue safer since the team could make better judgements about how to proceed. They could see the dog, who was stationary, alert, and did not seem hurt.

The equipment van arrived soon after, allowing the TRT to begin rigging ropes and clearing the blackberries that were in the way of getting to the dog and bringing her back up.

The attendant (the person descends to the animal to rig it and raise it back up) was Valon M. for this rescue. Assisting was Michael C. whom some of you may remember as the attendant from the recent Cloe rescue.

Once everything was set, Valon began the descent to Cheyenne, continuing to clear brush. Michael rappelled down shortly after to help cut back the canes, then ascended again using prusiks.

After reaching the dog, Valon fitted her with the harness we have for safely lifting a subject. After everyone was ready, the raise team hauled Valon and Cheyenne back up to the surface. Cheyenne seemed thirsty but otherwise unhurt. After that, the team debriefed, packed up, and headed home.

We're glad to have been able to assist Cheyenne back up to the top.

If you'd like to volunteer, we have some events coming up:

[Aug 26 Open House](#), where you can learn about us (free).

[Sept 15-16 Base Support and Operations Support](#)

2018 Training Dates



Some of our classes have changed names to better reflect what their function is. If you previously took Core, Animal Handling & Assessment, and Technical Animal Rescue, and your credentials are still current, you do not need to take the newly named Base Support, Operations Support, and Technical Support.

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

August 26, 2018 • Open House

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WASART NEWS is a publication of the Washington State Animal Response Team (WASART) published monthly. 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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