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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

From The President

Looking Back on Katrina

- [Looking Back on Katrina](#)
- [Murphy Retrieved After Squirrel Adventure](#)
- [Helping out with Ski to Sea](#)
- [Revisiting a Horse-in-a-Ditch Rescue](#)
- [Helping Animals Means Learning to Haul](#)
- [2018 Training Dates](#)

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](#)



WASART responds to wildland fires by setting up and running emergency animal shelters to take care of pets and livestock so owners can take care of themselves and get to human shelters, often located nearby.

I've been a member of WASART for 10 years now, and as I look back, it amazes me how things in the animal disaster response world have changed. There are always going to be areas where things could be done better, but, overall, significant improvements have been made. I deployed to Katrina in 2005 – I was invited - even back then I didn't self-deploy. I realize now that we did the best we could, with what we had, but how I wish we had all known more and communicated much more efficiently.

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/WASART2018>

June 30, 2018

Technical Animal Rigging

(f/k/a Technical Animal Rescue
- Awareness)

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

[Grateful Pine Farm](#)

13620 Old Snohomish Monroe
Road
Snohomish, WA 98290

August 26, 2018

Open House (repeat)

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 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

Outside the nearly 2,000 human fatalities from Hurricane Katrina, the disaster displaced or killed hundreds of thousands of dogs, cats, and other animals. At a time when rescues focused on people and pets were left behind. During Katrina, nearly half the people who needed rescue refused to go without their pets, and first responders would not take them —not even service animals. Thankfully, U.S. law now requires every Federal Emergency Management Agency disaster plan to include a way to evacuate pets.

Since the storm struck on Aug. 29, 2005, laws have changed how animal welfare groups and emergency responders approach pet rescues. Not just for hurricanes, but they also have received training to better catalog animals they sweep from wildfires, earthquakes, flooding, volcanoes, or tornadoes to ensure people reconnect with the pets they consider family.

Another huge improvement is that workers now ensure critical paperwork stays with pets at evacuation facilities, and post photos and information online. Even after all these years, I can still clearly recall the families desperately searching shelter after shelter after shelter looking for their lost pets. And in far too many cases, they were not successful.

Since Katrina, government agencies and animal welfare groups have improved coordination efforts to better organize disaster response. And thankfully animal rescue organizations, like WASART, are now included in local and state emergency planning. More animals are not only protected and saved, but they are reunited with their families.

We've all heard 'there will never be another Katrina.' And not because of the actual hurricane, but because we learned, we grew, and with that growth we are all better equipped to make things better: one animal at a time.

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!

July 7, 2018
[Poochapalooza](#)
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Asbery Field, 4th and Alder
Marysville, WA

August 9, 2018
Premera Preparedness &
Safety Event
10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
7001 220th Street SW
Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043

September 8, 2018
[Doggiestock Music Festival](#)
11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Tollgate Farm Park
1300 West North Bend Way
North Bend, 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.

Shawndra Michell,
President

Murphy Retrieved After Squirrel Adventure



Murphy chased a squirrel and fell over a cliff in West Seattle.

As happens more frequently than one would expect, we received a call for assistance just as we were finishing up Transport training/re-certification at the Enumclaw Expo Center on June 2nd. Murphy, a 20 lb. Cairn terrier, had bolted after a squirrel and disappeared over a cliff while being walked at Lincoln Park in West Seattle, [as told by Murphy's owner](#).



While some of the WASART volunteers put gear away and wrapped up the training site, others headed north immediately, expecting heavy traffic due to the closure of northbound I5. (With help from our traffic apps, we were able to make good time despite the closure.) Other WASART members who live closer to the park headed there as well, arriving before those of us coming from the Expo Center.

Murphy's people, supported by friends and passersby had stayed with him since he had disappeared over the embankment, trying to determine his exact location.

Upon arrival at the site, members of the WASART Technical Rescue Team (TRT) found that Murphy had been located. He was not accessible by any safe walking or free climbing, though, and it required the TRT's specialized skills to retrieve him.

WASART member Valon was able to put on a harness, attach a rope, and descend to retrieve uninjured Murphy without incident.

Needless to say, Murphy's people were very glad to see "Murphy's little button eyes and pointed ears".



Helping out with Ski to Sea



Search and rescue teams set up stations along the Nooksack River, ready to pull out canoe paddlers who have taken a spill in the river.

WASART is always excited when we get a chance to work with Whatcom County's [Summit to Sound](#)

[Search and Rescue](#) (StSSAR). Many of the StSSAR members help us out when we have regular rescues up in the north or when we have flood or swift water rescues in counties beyond just Whatcom. It's great to be able to assist in return, such as in the case of providing water safety for the [Ski to Sea multi-sport relay race](#). The race includes seven different sports, including the 18.5 mile canoe section.

The race draws a wide range of participants, from people who practiced all year to those who just rented a canoe the day before. Any public event brings with it inherent risks and dangers. When a race such as Ski to Sea has water portions, such as canoeing and kayaking, the dangers are greater. To assist with keeping participants safe, the water portions of the race are patrolled by StSSAR.

Teams are set up along the Nooksack River, equipped with throw bags of rescue ropes. Patrolling the river are StSSAR's boats. The various teams keep in touch with radios, tracking paddlers who may have fallen into the water already and need to be monitored for hypothermia or be getting tired. Participants are observed every stroke of the way as they travel down the river.

Nonprofits such as StSSAR and WASART like to help out with community events. It's safer for the participants, it's great training for the teams involved, and it's a lot of fun to work with the public and other teams.

Revisiting a Horse-in-a-Ditch Rescue



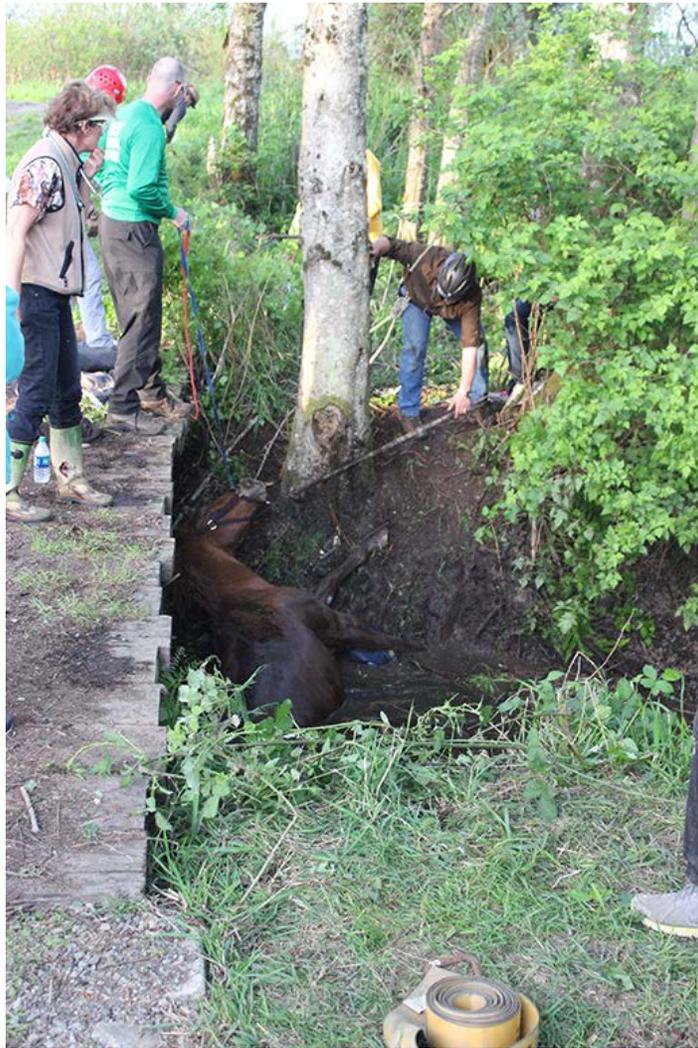
The technical rescue team got a chance to revisit a rescue from two years ago thanks to a generous property owner.

A couple of years ago, [WASART had a challenging rescue](#) when a horse fell off of a wooden bridge and into a deep muddy ditch below. The horse was safely rescued with the assistance of our A-frame/bipod and some mechanical advantage. The Technical Rescue Team (TRT) consider this scenario often during training.

During June's Technical Rescue training, the team got a chance to revisit the rescue. The reporting party of this rescue invited us to train on her property. While it was not the exact location of the original rescue, all the other elements were there: a bridge, some deep mud, and a problem to solve.

The team got a workout by first clearing blackberries, then setting up and managing the A-frame. The techniques were mostly the same, with some refinements, and we got a chance to go through the situation more slowly and carefully consider other options.

We're very grateful to the property owner for her willingness to allow us to hone our skills to make the next rescue even faster and safer.



The original [rescue of Honey](#), which happened near the recent practice session, has stuck with the team enough to revisit the scenario.

Helping Animals Means Learning to Haul

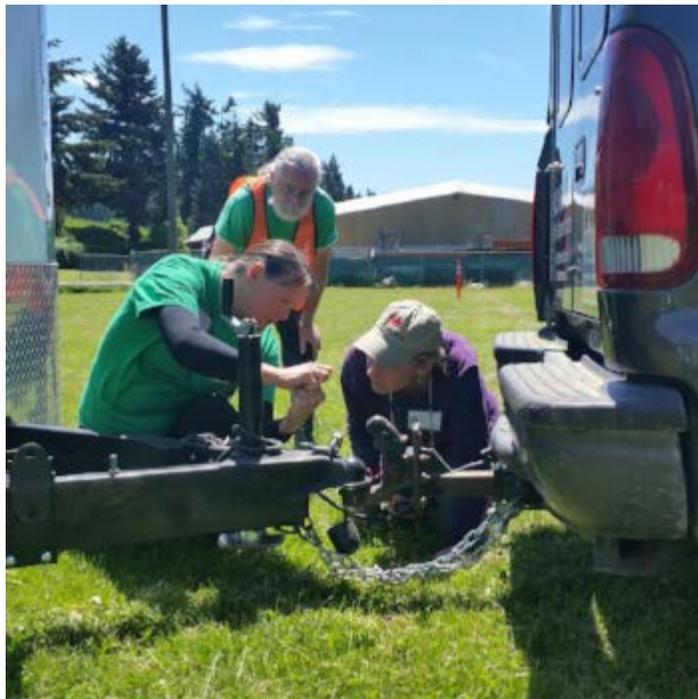


A student backs on of WASART's rescue trailers into a parking spot.

On Saturday, June 2, WASART held its annual Transport training, open to both members and the general public. The training builds skills which allow students to maneuver large vehicles and vehicles towing trailers in a safe manner. Starting with "walk around" inspections to determine that the vehicle and trailer are in good condition and safe to drive, students then practiced hooking up and unhooking trailers from towing vehicles. The importance of double checking the hook up and making sure the lights on the trailer are all working was covered as well. Finally students adjusted seats and mirrors to suit them before driving practice.

The driving course consisted of a diminishing circle to get the feel of the turning radius of the various WASART vehicles and combinations, a narrow passage to squeeze through, backing the van or a trailer into a parking spot at right angles, driving a serpentine, driving a narrow corner, and straight backing.

To wind things up the entire group formed into a convoy and drove a few miles up the highway to practice moving groups of vehicles while in radio communication.



2018 Training Dates



Sign up at <http://bit.ly/WASART2018>

OPEN HOUSE
Feb 10
Aug 27

BASE SUPPORT
(Formerly Fundamentals)
Mar 3
Sep 15

OPERATIONS SUPPORT
(Formerly Animal Handling & Assessment)
Mar 4
Sep 16

EMERGENCY ANIMAL SHELTERING
Apr 7

ROPES 1
May 5-6

TRANSPORT
Jun 2

COMMUNICATIONS PRACTICE
TBD

TECHNICAL SUPPORT
(Formerly Technical Animal Rescue)
~~May 19~~ June 30

ANNUAL EXERCISE
Oct 20 (tentative)

2018 TRAINING

WASART
Washington Animal Search & Rescue Team

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.

CANCELLED

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