

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](http://www.washingtonsart.org)

Helping Animals & Their Owners in Disasters

- [WASART Considers Adding Water Rescue to Capabilities](#)
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### From The President

## WASART Considers Adding Water Rescue to Capabilities



*During the Nooksack River Dog Rescue, Marcia and Ed from our good friends at Summit to Sound Search & Rescue ([STS](#)) prepare to get the dog back to the near shore. (See full article [here](#).)*

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 13, 2018**  
[Shoreline Fire Department](#)  
17525 Aurora Avenue N  
Shoreline, WA 98133

**September 12, 2018**  
[Valley Regional Fire Authority](#)

With some water rescues in our recent past, the Board of Directors has been discussing the impact of those sorts of missions and what we can do to make them safer and more effective. Since we are not trained for slack or swift water, we normally call our friends at [Summit to Sound Search & Rescue](#) in Whatcom County to see if they are available and willing to assist. They've been very gracious and generous in the past with their time and volunteers, some of whom are also WASART members.

1101 D Street, NE  
Auburn, WA 98002

**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/WASART2018>

**June 2, 2018**

#### Transport

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

[Enumclaw Expo Center](#)  
45224 284th Avenue SE  
Enumclaw, WA 98022

**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.

Location TBD

**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

WASART is investigating adding water response to our rescues and if we do, what level it should be at. This is a long and involved process, but one that could be valuable to those we serve. Water rescue, both slack and swift, is one of the most dangerous rescues that can be done. There is also extensive (and expensive) training and equipment that is needed in order to do this safely and effectively—for the humans, and the animals. We also need to evaluate how this affect our already very busy volunteers.

We are assessing the need for additional water rescue here in western Washington, but WASART will ensure that it will be an enhancement to what we currently do, and in no way negatively affect our rescue response.

Shawndra Michell,  
President

## Mud Lances & Compressed Air Assist Mud Extractions



*As an additional bonus for this training, we had award-winning pet photographer [Julie Austin](#) out to take pictures. Julie was a great guest and sent us some wonderful photos to use. Thank you, Julie! See more of the photo set on on it.*

**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

**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

**July 21 and 22, 2018**  
[Kla Ha Ya Days](#)  
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
1st and Union  
Snohomish, WA 98290

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.

If you've ever stepped in mud and felt the resistance of pulling your foot back out, you've experienced a small bit of the resistance a horse or other large animal stuck in the mud is fighting.

To complicate matters, a large animal can't just be pulled out without risk to their bodies and sometimes lives. The surface area of the legs, body, and especially tail make extraction dangerous and the forces are exponentially higher the more mud is in contact with the animal. Large animals are built to be supported by their legs. Damage to the the limbs and internal organs can occur when listing, if measures aren't taken.

Fortunately, we have some excellent tools that make this easier.

WASART spent April's monthly technical rescue training on the extraction of a large animal sunk deeply into mud. To prepare for the practice, our technical lead dug a hole with an excavator, filled it with water, and placed our mannequin, Joey, in the mud a week before practice.

On arriving at the practice site, the team found Joey well-set in his mud treatment. The team used backboards to place on the mud for better footing. We set up the bipod and pulled the sling under the mannequin to prepare for lift. Using a tube called a Nicopoulos Needle, that uses compressed air to help get the sling through the mud, made the job easier. Next we assembled mud lances, long tubes with connections for compressed air at their top ends. These allow us to inject air below the animal to help break the vacuum. Attaching the four of them to a diving air tank (donated by one of our volunteers), we placed them against the mannequin's legs. The compressed air was turned on and the suction was broken long enough to allow for extraction.

One lesson learned from this rescue is not to let a



mannequin sit in mud for a week. The mud had the opportunity to settle against the mannequin and dry quite a bit. During lift, we had a device just above the horse measuring the forces it would be experiencing on the sling. We felt the forces were too high and adapted by pausing, figuring out what the issue might be, and using the excavator to stir the nearly-dry mud at the bottom of the mud pit. Once loosened, the practice proceeded as expected.

In reality, a horse would not be in mud as dense as the mannequin experienced, but we are always appreciative when things go unexpectedly during a practice. It allows us a low-pressure situation to problem solve so we have solutions practiced before we experience them in the field.



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## Rescued Animals Pay It Forward with Training Assist



*Dr. Heather-Michelle Stewart and Rosie have a moment. Rosie was [rescued from a neglect situation thanks to intervention from Pierce County](#).*

One of the services WASART provides is training in various animal rescue skills. Training is offered to WASART members as well as the general public. Training is mandatory for members who wish to deploy on WASART missions. These trainings include Base Support, Operations Support, Ropes 1, Transport, Communications, and Emergency Animal Sheltering.

From time to time WASART is asked to set up and run emergency animal shelters for companion animals and/or livestock during an emergency. These may be needed during a flood, a wildfire, or other situations that require people and their animals to evacuate.

In April, WASART put on one of our semiannual sheltering classes. Students learned the logistics of setting up a shelter, animal intake, record keeping, and daily care. Some supplemental animal handling experience was also provided. Fun was had by all.

Special thanks to Dr. Heather-Michelle Stewart, a WASART member who was at our very first deployment and has recently founded [Steven's Animal Sanctuary](#). All of the animals you see here are residents.



## Making Technical Rescue Approachable



*Keeping things light-hearted is key in keeping an*

*introductory class approachable.*

The technical rescue team in WASART trains monthly, using techniques that may be intimidating to members who are interested in joining the team but not sure where to start. Though any member is invited to join in on any training, it can seem like a foreign language to a new member. It can also feel like you are in the way, as the new person.

So, to try an alleviate this issue, we introduced a class called Ropes 1 last year. The class, taught by the technical rescue team, goes through common concepts such as mechanical advantage and introduces core skills like knot tying. Combining class room training and hands-on practice, students are set up to join the instructors as teammates in future monthly trainings.

This year's class was held in April on a sunny day in Issaquah. Nine of the ten students were female, and the class had a very good student to teacher ratio.

## 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)

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.

**June 2, 2018 • Transport**

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

[Enumclaw Expo Center](#)

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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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