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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

- [Looking Forward To A Safe Spring](#)
- [Last Chances and Hopes For Better Tomorrows](#)
- [Not Helping, But Helping Wildlife](#)
- [Open House Attracts New Members](#)
- [Raise the Hoof Fundraiser March 24, 2018](#)
- [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

March 14, 2018

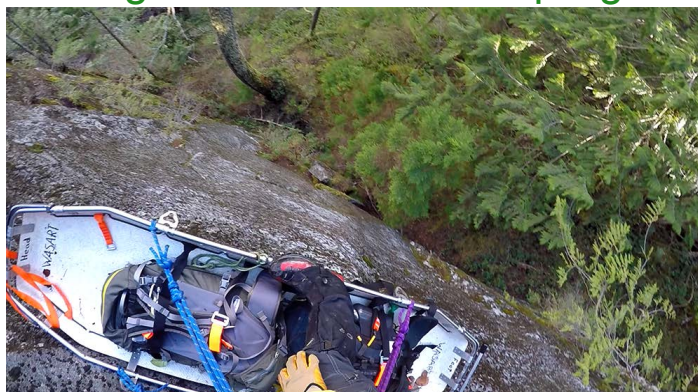
[King County Office of Emergency Management](#)
3511 NE 2nd Street
Renton, WA 98056

June 13, 2018

[Shoreline Fire Department](#)

From The President

Looking Forward To A Safe Spring



Suspended over a sheer drop off, the view from the litter is a common one for the technical rescue team, which is the main team deployed for dogs who have fallen over cliffs.

Between Valentine's and Spring-like days here in Western WA, it's gotten me thinking about more and more people being outside with their animals. We love our animals and want to share the fun of being out in nature, but there are some things that can take the fun right out of a great day. Please, please keep your dogs on leashes! I know they love to run free, but WASART has been called upon to rescue far too many dogs over cliffs. Their noses are so much better than ours, and we aren't able to smell the amazing thing just on the other side of that split rail fence, and sadly, the dogs aren't aware that it's a long drop off on the other side of that split rail fence.

This is also the time of year when rivers and

17525 Aurora Avenue N
Shoreline, WA 98133

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
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>

March 3, 2018

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

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

[Remlinger Farms](#)

32610 NE 32nd
Carnation, WA 98014

March 4, 2018

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

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

[Remlinger Farms](#)

32610 NE 32nd
Carnation, WA 98014

April 7, 2018

**Emergency Animal
Sheltering**

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

30609 SE 352nd
Enumclaw, WA 98022

May 5-6, 2018

Ropes 1

streams are full and very cold, and mud can be deeper than we think. When you and your horse are out having fun, just take a bit longer to be aware of your surroundings to keep you both safe.

Walk, ride, hike, trek with awareness, and the amazing day outside will hopefully stay amazing all the way home! Wishing you all fun, *and safety*. And speaking of fun, hope to see many of you on March 24th, at our 2nd annual fundraiser (see more below).

In peace,
Shawndra Michell
President

Last Chances and Hopes For Better Tomorrows



Tired, this horse rested its head on a responder's lap. [picture for illustrative purposes only]

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

[Eastside Fire & Rescue
Headquarters](#)

175 Newport Way NW
Issaquah, WA 98027

May 19, 2018

Technical Support

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

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 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

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!

May 19, 2018

Petpalooza

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

We've had a couple of calls recently on which we can't share a lot of details. They are calls that may become cruelty investigations, both horses too thin to stand on their own.

The most recent call spanned a number of days and we can share a few small details.

We were called out for a horse that a local rescue had taken in that morning. By the afternoon, the horse had laid down on the soft shavings in its stall and was unable to get up. We moved the horse to a nearby arena and stood it up.

We returned four times over the span of six days to assist the horse, who was very sweet-natured, bright-eyed, and trusting. During that span, the horse was almost never alone. It had as much kindness as a horse could ask for and constant vet care. Some nights the vet slept nearby.

On our last visit with this horse, we rigged it with a method to move it to a trailer that would take the horse to a vet hospital better equipped to nurse it back to health. We draped it with blankets to keep it warm. The horse, laying on its side, was tired from trying to stand. It lay its head on the lap of the responder kneeling just behind it and rested there as she worked.

Whenever a technical rescue organization such as WASART or a search and rescue unit is called, it is likely to be one of the worst days an animal or a person will experience. It's often a day of change, especially in cases such as these. It's difficult for everyone and every animal involved. We have to steel our hearts and work to keep positive aspects in mind: what we are doing will mean the end of the worst of suffering for the animal. Sometimes it means better days are ahead. Almost always, there are good people around it working hard to make things better.

[Game Farm Park](#)
3030 R Street 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.



With almost all calls, we're there to give the animal a last chance at survival, whether it's a dog over a cliff or a horse too malnourished to stand unassisted. And with all calls, we wish the best for the animal. Sometimes we go home knowing its fate, other times we don't. In either case we hug our own animals extra tightly when we get home.

Not Helping, But Helping Wildlife



Baby squirrel being fed by wildlife rehabilitator (image: CC BY-SA 3.0)

WASART is highly trained and very well equipped for technical and backcountry rescue, and emergency sheltering of domestic animals large and small. But there are some situations for which we are neither trained nor equipped. Foremost of these is dealing with wildlife, whether injured, trapped, or stranded. We get frequent calls for injured hawks, seagulls, deer, coyotes, raccoons, and other species, and sometimes for stranded marine mammals. Unfortunately, we aren't qualified to handle these situations. We do maintain an extensive list of emergency resources to address situations we can't deal with, and we refer these calls to the most appropriate resource.

There are few such resources for dealing with injured wildlife, however. We generally refer callers to the nearest office of the [Washington Department](#)

[of Fish and Wildlife](#) (WDFW), as the best source of advice and potential help for these situations. But the unfortunate reality is that it's unlikely that there will be someone that can actually come and rescue an injured wild animal. They are dangerous and elusive, and the likelihood of being able to capture them successfully is low. WASART does not recommend that callers attempt to capture them on their own. This is the information on rescuing injured wildlife from the WDFW website: "For sick or injured wildlife please contact a local Wildlife Rehabilitator." For a list of rehabilitators by county, click [HERE](#). However, the website also states that most rehabilitators do not rescue/capture sick or injured wildlife.

The picture is a little brighter in situations where the caller has actually already captured the animal, though. We have a number of references for groups and individuals that treat and rehabilitate injured wildlife, and we are happy to refer callers to the nearest asset that might help with the critter they have rescued.

Open House Attracts New Members



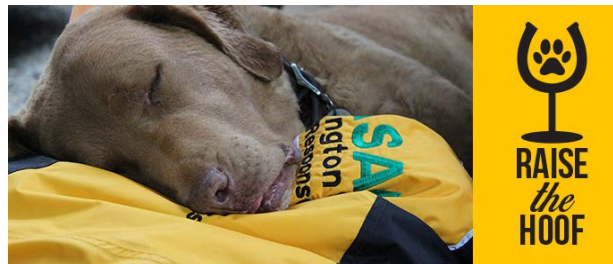
Long-time and new members practicing technical small animal rescue. Technical rescue skills are highly perishable and require constant practice.

WASART's latest Open House was held on February 10 at the the King County Emergency Operations center in Renton. Visitors and potential new members were acquainted with WASART's mission and the various roles available in our all-volunteer organization. (Hint: there's something for everyone.) Visitors were also shown our well equipped rescue van and it's contents.

We were fortunate to recruit several new members, some of whom come to us with Search & Rescue and Technical Rescue skills. Others took applications home with them.

We welcome them and their talents.

Raise the Hoof Fundraiser March 24, 2018



The Washington State Animal Response Team cordially invites you to our second annual fundraiser, Raise the Hoof, celebrating past and future rescues. We have a fun afternoon planned and hope you can make it!

- Wine and catered vegetarian appetizers
- 50/50 Raffle
- Auction of experiences and items
- Wine pull
- Guest speaker Julie Anderson
- In beautiful Titlow Park

[Titlow Lodge](#)

8425 6th Ave
Tacoma, WA 98465
4 pm-7 pm • \$45

Questions? event@washingtonsart.org

\$40 before March 7, 2018

\$45 after March 7, 2018

\$50 at the door

Buy tickets here:

<https://raisethehoof2018.brownpapertickets.com/>

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

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.

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Location TBD

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Enumclaw, WA 98022

Register:

<http://bit.ly/WASART2018>

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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