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Welcome to this issue of the Washington State Animal Response Team's bi-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

- [Prepare: We Just Can't Say It Enough](#)
- [Horse in Chelan Ravine](#)
- [Appaloosa Trapped in Kittitas Ravine](#)
- [Annual Exercise: October 20](#)
- [Ambitious Schedule Keeps Training Committee Busy](#)
- [WASART Newsletter Goes Bi-monthly](#)
- [2019 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

December 12, 2018
[King County Office of Emergency Management](#)
3511 NE 2nd Street
Renton, WA 98056

From The President

Prepare: We Just Can't Say It Enough



WASART Members Clean and Restock Rescue Equipment.

With autumn coming up soon, and the natural disasters – as of this writing, there are 9 tropical storms/hurricanes around the world – now might be a good time for us all to revisit our emergency plans and kits. I've already swapped out my water and dog food for fresh, ensured that phone numbers are correct and that my other supplies are not out of date. Here in the Pacific Northwest, our rainy season is starting, and we're expecting a warmer and wetter winter. It's highly likely that WASART will be called upon many times to help animals as a result of flooding and mud issues over the next several months. We've been very busy training and preparing to respond to these requests.

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>

October 20, 2018
Annual Exercise (free)
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
[Enumclaw Expo Center](#)
45224 284th Avenue SE
Enumclaw, WA 98022

February 9, 2019
Open House
Time TBD
Kent, WA

March 9, 2019
Base Support
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Carnation, WA

March 10, 2019
Operations Support
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Carnation, WA

April 13-14, 2019
Ropes 1
time TBD
Issaquah, WA

May 18, 2019
Technical Animal Rigging (Awareness)
Time, location TBD

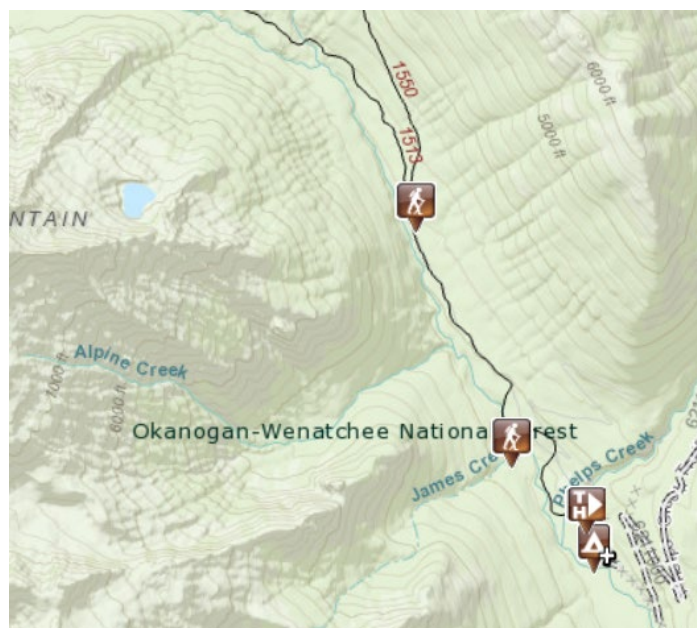
June 2, 2019
Transport
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
[Enumclaw Expo Center](#)
45224 284th Avenue SE
Enumclaw, WA 98022

Washington State Emergency Management has a great website with lots of valuable information on preparedness and emergency contact information: [here](#).

Enjoy this gorgeous season knowing that you and your animals are as prepared as can be, and if you need assistance, we'll be here to help out!

Shawndra Michell,
President

Horse in Chelan Ravine



In mid-morning on September 14th, WASART received a call for assistance for a horse that was trapped in a ravine in the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest in Chelan County, a 3-5 hour drive from Seattle and Tacoma, from where most of our responders would be leaving. Once sufficient information was gathered, a team of 5 WASART responders was formed, with three other WASART responders on standby. They headed to the Trinity Trailhead where the response was being staged, about 140 miles from Seattle. Responders Bill V. and Kristi O. met at the staging site for the WASART rescue equipment van (located in Snohomish) and proceeded over Stevens Pass with

June 8, 2019

**Emergency Animal
Sheltering**

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
30609 SE 352nd
Cumberland, WA 98022

August 25, 2019

Open House

Time, location TBD

September 15, 2019

Base Support

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
[Foothills Veterinary Hospital](#)
28512 112th Street East
Buckley, WA 98321

September 16, 2019

Operations Support

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
[Foothills Veterinary Hospital](#)
28512 112th Street East
Buckley, WA 98321

October 18-19, 2019

Annual Exercise (free)

[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?

Mission Statement

To help animals and their
owners through disaster
preparedness, education,

the van, to the trailhead.

Already on site were the [Chelan County Search and Rescue \(SAR\)](#) Coordinator, several SAR volunteers, the horse owner and friends, as well as several people from [Icicle Guides & Outfitters](#), a total of about 10-15 people. A 4-person team from [Tacoma Mountain Rescue](#) deployed from the Tacoma area at approximately the same time as the WASART team.

A member of WASART's Technical Rescue Team (TRT), Joe C., was the first WASART person to arrive, and had already hiked up the 1-2 miles from the trailhead to the horse when the rescue equipment van arrived. A radio relay had been established and he used it to request that two ropes and two rigging kits be brought up the trail to the site. Those supplies and responder's personal packs were loaded onto waiting pack horses in order to expedite getting the needed equipment to the horse. WASART responder Valon M., also a TRT member, arrived on site as the team were departing the staging area for the trapped horse. After checking with the team waiting in the staging area, the SAR Coordinator cleared them to depart for the trapped horse.

Unfortunately, the horse passed away from his injuries before the remainder of the team and equipment arrived. The rigging kits and personal packs were removed from the pack horses and the WASART team carried them back down the trail to the staging area where they were stowed in WASART's rescue equipment van. The pack horses continued up the trail to bring out the rest of the gear from the rescue site.

All responders returned to the staging area and debriefed, led by the Chelan County SAR Coordinator.

We are always saddened with a four-legged critter doesn't make it. Our condolences go out to the

and emergency response.



owner and the family.

Appaloosa Trapped in Kittitas Ravine



WASART responders arrange a dry place for Huckleberry to stand.

On September 22nd, we received a request to assist with locating a missing trail horse near Lake Kachess. However, as WASART doesn't search for missing animals, we were placed on standby until the horse was located and would be activated if rescue was needed. The next day we were notified the Appaloosa trail horse named Huckleberry had been located at the bottom of a ravine near Lake Kachess in Easton, WA.

The ravine where the horse was found is cut deeply into the ground, with a creek at the bottom. Duff and underbrush covered walls on both sides are very steep and rose about 300 feet up to the trail above. Due to various obstructions, there was no way to walk the horse upstream or downstream. A technical raise was not feasible due to the number of trees in the way and the distance. It's Forest Service land, and even if permission was granted to cut the trees, it would have taken longer than the horse could afford to wait.

We asked King County's [Regional Special Vehicles Unit](#) if they could help with some of our rescue equipment, should we need to ferry it up the trail. The equipment is heavy and cumbersome and we knew the trail was steep going in. Unfortunately, the trail was determined to be too narrow for the unit's ATVs to be used but we're grateful RSVU were there to assist had it been possible.

The horse had also sustained injuries before we arrived. He had some lacerations on his legs and may have had internal injuries that we could not assess. He was standing in a creek with little option of escaping due to the topography. In short, the options were to attempt a helicopter extraction or to euthanize.

Our team was boots on the ground early on September 23rd which included two of our member veterinarians and a licensed vet tech (LVT). We offered, and were granted permission by the owner, to do first aid for the horse: the lacerations were bandaged and vital signs were checked. The owner was able to arrange for a non-WASART veterinarian, Howard Friedman, DVM, of [Cougar Mountain Veterinary Hospital](#) to come on scene later in the evening to help the owner and Huckleberry get through the night.

In an effort to get Huckleberry out of the chilling creek water and to a dry patch, the team found a spot that could be cleared of brush and rocks to allow the horse to stand or lay without furthering hypothermia. Then, with some excellent horse handling skills from the owner, Huckleberry made it out of the creek to the flat spot.

The owner requested the assistance of a private helicopter and was granted permission from the Forest Service to make the attempt. There was a limited amount of daylight left and the pilot made the call to wait until morning.

A helicopter lift requires a piece of equipment like an

Anderson Sling. It's built and tested for lifting horses via helicopter. It also requires training to use. Helicopter lifts are already dangerous to everyone involved: animal, humans in the helicopter, and the humans on the ground. We have neither an Anderson Sling nor the training to use one.

We had an honest talk with the owner about our thoughts on the only two options available for the situation, i.e., humane euthanization or helicopter extraction. The owner put the first option on the back burner for the time and understood we did not have training or equipment to execute the second option. We returned to the staging area, conducted a debrief, and headed home late that night. The helicopter extraction was planned for early the next morning by [Hillsboro Aviation](#).

Huckleberry's family was able to locate an Anderson sling and borrow it from Washington State University. The helicopter extraction of Huckleberry was picture perfect and upon landing at the Easton Airport, he was rushed to [Washington State University's Veterinary Hospital](#) where the veterinarians were waiting to assess and treat him.

The assessment of the injuries was not what we and the owner and her friends had wanted and Huckleberry was humanely euthanized several hours after he arrived.

Huckleberry was a valiant horse who tried so very hard for his owner. Everyone involved in this deployment are saddened by the ending. Our condolences to his owner and everyone who knew and loved him.

Annual Exercise: October 20



A guest checks in at Hotel WASART.

Since 2008, WASART has organized an Annual Exercise held in October that challenges participants to experience the joys and frustrations of setting up and operating a temporary emergency animal shelter or in responding to the technical rescue of an animal from a dangerous or life-threatening situation.

This year, on October 20th at the Enumclaw Expo Center, the WASART Annual Exercise will be an event that provides a realistic deployment scenario to practice skills needed for emergency response by combining a mock sheltering exercise, emergency operations, communications, technical rescue, and transport utilizing live animals.

The Annual Exercise is a free, one-day, full-scale animal shelter set up and operation exercise with live animals. Participants are comprised of WASART members as well as volunteers from various animal related organizations, all of whom are exposed to various aspects of a large and small animal shelter operation.

Much will be learned, and current skills will be put to the test, but the team building aspect will be just as important. All will improve WASART's ability to provide emergency temporary sheltering and technical rescues for companion animals and

livestock.

Representatives of any animal-welfare organization or agency who wish to attend the Annual Exercise, either as a participant or observer, are encouraged to contact training@washingtonsart.org.

Ambitious Schedule Keeps Training Committee Busy



Recent members learn about litter rescues.

With September nearly behind us, the very busy WASART Training Committee wrapped up its final training session for the year with Operations Support training on September 16th. During each year, WASART schedules a minimum of six training events, all with the focus of preparing members to deploy safely, confidently, and efficiently into the field when a call for assistance is received from either a government agency or a private citizen.

Base Support training is held in the spring and fall and is the basic training that is required of all members who wish to deploy. There are other online requirements that must also be met but when combined with Base Support training, that member is set to go. Operations Support, also taught in the spring and fall, builds on the knowledge gained in Base Support and equips members to handle animals in the field and to assist the Technical Rescue Team when technical expertise is needed

on a deployment. Emergency Animal Sheltering and Transport are held once annually, and members learn how to setup and operate emergency animal shelters, using live animals, and to drive any one of WASART's fleet of trucks and trailers.

With the closure of the training season, we're proud to say that over 82 WASART members and non-members are now partially or fully trained to deploy into the field when we are needed to help an animal out of a dangerous and sometimes life-threatening situation. We are proud of all the folks who have dedicated so much time and effort in working towards meeting WASART's mission: To help animals and their owners in emergencies.


WASART Newsletter Goes Bi-monthly.



Okay, we admit the more appropriate photo here would be a calendar, but we'd rather show you more awesome animals.

In order to reduce clutter in your inbox and make better use of your time, the WASART newsletter will be changing to bi-monthly publication. Our next issue will be in November.

2019 Training Dates



2019 TRAINING

ANNUAL EXERCISE
Oct 20, 2018

OPEN HOUSE
Feb 9
Aug 25

BASE SUPPORT & OPERATIONS SUPPORT
Mar 9-10
Sep 15-16


ROPES 1
Apr 13-14

TECHNICAL ANIMAL RIGGING AWARENESS
May 18

TRANSPORT
June 2

EMERGENCY ANIMAL SHELTERING
June 8

ANNUAL EXERCISE
Oct 18-19

 **WASART**
Washington Animal Support & 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.

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WASART NEWS is a publication of the Washington State Animal Response Team (WASART) published bi-monthly. WASART is an all-volunteer, 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization. Mail us at: WASART, P.O. Box 21, Enumclaw, WA 98022.

info@washingtonsart.org - www.washingtonsart.org • (425) 681-5498

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