

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

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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 11, 2019
[King County Office of Emergency Management](#)
3511 NE 2nd
Renton, WA 98056

The General Meetings are held from **7 p.m. - 9 p.m.** The first

From The President Summer Hiking Concerns, Old and New



Kodin (see story farther down the page) receives bandaging that eventually helped him down the trail.

The season for hiking with your dog is definitely upon us, and we've already been called out multiple times to assist with rescuing dogs in these situations. See below for the details on these responses and please, please educate others to keep their dogs leashed or harnessed! Here's a link to a great [article on hiking safely with dogs](#). Please take note of #5! I'd also add paw wrapping items to your first aid kit (see video [here](#)).

On a different topic, here's a link to an [article on 'clone ticks'](#), a topic that I'm not all excited about but which I think is important. So far, ticks seem to be found only in the Eastern US, but keep a watchful eye out for these and any other kind of tick, by being

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/WASART2019>

Calendar and events,
 including training
 descriptions
<https://wasart.org/training-events/>

Upcoming Training

August 25, 2019

Open House

1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. (2 sessions)

[King County Office of Emergency Management](#)

3511 NE 2nd
 Renton, WA 98056

September 14, 2019

Base Support

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

[Foothills Veterinary Hospital](#)

28512 112th Street East
 Buckley, WA 98321

September 15, 2019

Operations Support

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

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28512 112th Street East
 Buckley, WA 98321

October 18-19, 2019

Annual Exercise (free)

[Enumclaw Expo Center](#)

45224 284th Avenue SE
 Enumclaw, WA 98022

overlooked or underrated. Being aware of our surroundings, our impact on others and how our animals are dealing with whatever it is we're asking them to do, could help tremendously by catching something early enough before it becomes an emergency.

A dog's paws can burn, be cut or blistered during a hike. They can also become too fatigued to complete the hike. As always, WASART is here if you need us. Here's to a safe, aware and healthy summer!

Shawndra Michell,
President

Dog with Damaged Paws Helped Down the Gothic Basin Trail

August 24, 2019[Auburn Valley Humane Society](#)[Barkfest](#)

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Ilalko Elementary School

301 Oravetz Road

Auburn, WA

September 7, 2019[Doggiestock Music Festival](#)

11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Old Cascade Golf Course

14319 436th Avenue SE

North Bend, WA 98405

October 5, 2019**Grays Harbor County
Emergency Preparedness
Fair**

10:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Shoppes at Riverside

1017 S. Boone Street

Aberdeen, WA



Kodin rests in a creek on the way back to Base.

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.



The information we received just before dark on Sunday, July 21st, was of a 130 lb. dog with injury needing help to get down the Gothic Basin Trail in the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Park in Snohomish County. The subject was outside of cellphone coverage and was able to send an SOS via an InReach device which also gave us coordinates of the incident. For the safety of all involved, we deferred our response until morning, when we'd have daylight. The subjects were notified via the InReach.

We brought both of WASART's inReach devices on their first mission in order to provide a connection back to our call coordinator who was in touch with the [Snohomish County Sheriff](#).

Three of our technical rescue responders headed out to the dog. They were joined by a responder from Snohomish County Volunteer Search and

We met up with the subject, Kodin, a beautiful 3-year-old King German Shepherd, his owner, and three adult passers-by that paused in their own trips to help out. The passers-by stayed with Kodin and his owner overnight, as well as providing basic pet first aid, such as wrapping his injured paws.

In case Kodin was unable to walk out, Team 1 radioed Base to request a second call for volunteers to help with a difficult carry-out. The Snohomish County Search and Rescue Coordinator put out a request to other counties as well. Fortunately Kodin was able to walk out and the additional help was not needed.

We arrived back at Base just before 6 p.m. The descent took about 3 1/2 hours. The owner loaded Kodin into his car and headed out to an emergency vet. We debriefed and headed home. [More details about the rescue can be found on our website.](#)

Thanks to SCVSAR, Snohomish County Sheriff's Office, the three who stayed the night with our injured subject and his owner, and the numerous hikers who stopped by Base to offer good wishes.

Dog Rescued From 80 Ft Over Cedar Ponds Cliff



After being retrieved Bella was strapped into the Cascade litter and is ready to be carried the short distance back to her owners.

The call came in a couple of hours before dark on July 26th. We sent out a call to our volunteers, and also a request for assistance from Snohomish County Volunteer Search and Rescue ([SCVSAR](#)), since we we had some concerns about the possibility of a water rescue.

On site, a twin tension system was set up and two attendants harnessed and roped up in preparation to go over the edge and down to the dog. The plan was for the attendants to go down on their own and have the litter on standby at the top in case it was needed.

They reached the bottom of the cliff and made friends with Bella. As the rope team on top switched over to a raise system, the attendants fitted Bella with a muzzle and lift harness. She was alert but not active and the attendants had to work the harness under her as she lay still. (It's WASART's policy to always muzzle dogs. Even the sweetest pup can bite if injured and in pain.)

She rode up in the attendant's arms. At the top, another WASART member was ready to help transition Bella to flat ground while SCVSAR members helped the attendants the rest of the way

The WASART attendant who had held Bella on the way up is a veterinarian. He had given her a quick look at the base of the cliff, but now had a chance to examine her a bit more closely. She seemed to have some pain in her hind area. She was also unwilling to stand, and would not be able to walk the 1/4 mile out to the road. We placed her in the litter, strapped her in, and carried her out.

Back at the road, Bella was placed in her family's waiting car for the trip local emergency vet clinic.

We heard the next morning that Bella had a broken pelvis but no other injuries and is expected to recover.

All responders were home safely by 2 am. [More details can be found on our website.](#)

Dog Rescued From 200 ft Down Embankment



Leo drinks water after his ordeal.

We received a call on July 10th about a dog over a cliff in Mukilteo in Snohomish County, WA. Our subject was a lab-Airdale mix, weighing about 50 lbs named Leo.

Our responder scouted the area and determined this would be a situation requiring technical rescue-trained members due to the steep conditions and heavy brush. We couldn't see the dog from any angle or vantage point but could hear the occasional bark. The wind and the geography made it sound as if the barks were coming from different areas so we weren't even sure of the most likely location of the dog.

We requested help from Snohomish County's Snohomish County Volunteer Search and Rescue ([SCVSAR](#)) which included a request for assistance from Everett Mountain Rescue ([EMR](#)). While waiting for the teams to arrive, we'd asked the [Mukilteo Fire Department](#) if they'd like to bring out a drone, in case it would be helpful in locating the dog. Unfortunately, the brush was too heavy and the drone was unable to spot the dog either visually or with thermal imaging.

After set up and safety check, two attendants proceeded down the cliff to give us a better chance of finding Leo. The attendant from EMR nearly reached the end of the 200 ft rope when he was about 10 feet from the dog. The WASART attendant climbed back up, then rappelled down to the dog with a harness.

Once they were ready to go, the haul team at the top of the cliff raised the EMR individual and the dog, who had no apparent injuries. Leo departed immediately with his owner for a veterinary hospital for a check over. [Details can be found on our website.](#)

A big thanks to SCVSAR, EMR, the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office, animal control, and the Snohomish County Fire Department. As always, a response of any sort is a team effort and we are grateful to continually find ourselves in the company of the best of teams.

German Shepherd Rescued From 50 ft Down Slope



Post-rescue Mason waits back at Base after a slip down a steep slope.

Usually when people call us, it's through the emergency number, and when it's for Snohomish County, we respond with the permission or at the request of the [Sheriff's Office](#). Snohomish County has a lot of backwoods trails, so if someone needs rescue service, by either us or regular search and rescue, there's a drive and often a long hike involved. Cellphone service is usually not available.

In the case of German Shepherd Mason's owners, a ham radio operator was able to radio for help and request search and rescue assistance, from about three miles up the Greider Lake Trail. Mason, who was on a leash, had slipped about 50 feet down a steep slope and was unable to get back up to the top.

head out at 7 pm. They split into two teams. The first were WASART technical rescue team (TRT) members and the second were WASART support members who helped carry equipment. A third team departed from base at 8 pm and consisted of a WASART TRT member and one member from Snohomish County Volunteer Search and Rescue ([SCVSAR](#)). She was also a technical rescue-trained volunteer.

We made it up in about 1 hour and 45 minutes. The first team was able to set up a simple rappel to reach Mason, who had made his way back up a bit, but was unable to go farther due to the terrain. One of the WASART responders is a veterinarian. He had a quick look at Mason, who appeared uninjured.

We departed the rescue site at about 9:45 pm, and got back to base at about 11:45 pm. We went slower on the way down for safety, since it was dark and slippery in places from moisture.

Mason and family headed out. We debriefed and head home with all responders home by 2:15 am. Details [here](#).

Thanks again to SCVSAR, who have been good partners to us the last three rescues for deploying some of their most experienced rope rescue technicians. Thanks to the SnoCo Sheriff's Office for their continued support of the work we do. Not mentioned here yet is another WASART member who assisted with the maps from afar.

2019 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 25, 2019

Open House (free)

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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.

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