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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

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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

**March 13, 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

## Looking Back, Looking Forward



*A responder helps walk a dog during her deployment to California's Camp Fire.*

Happy 2019 everyone, and I hope this new year has begun well for you all!

WASART had an amazing year, with many challenges, opportunities, growth, lessons, and of course, rescuing animals. We had more deployments in 2018, than in any other year – 41 to be exact! Keep in mind that when WASART was just beginning in 2007, we had one deployment. We always receive more calls for help than deployments, and last year was no different. We received an even 100 calls to our call center in 2018, requesting help, guidance and information.

We helped with horses, dogs, cats, bulls, and others. Just a few of the highlights from last year

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.

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### Upcoming training

Register at  
<http://bit.ly/WASART2019>

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

### Upcoming Training

#### **February 9, 2019**

##### **Open House**

12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
King County Office of Emergency  
Management  
3511 NE 2nd  
Renton, WA 98056

#### **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 6, 2019**

##### **Transport**

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

#### **April 13-14, 2019**

##### **Ropes 1**

time TBD  
Issaquah, WA

#### **May 18, 2019**

##### **Technical Animal Rigging**

include working with law enforcement on multiple seizures/animal cruelty cases; dogs with burned paws, fatigued dogs, dogs over cliffs, horses unable to stand, and in fact we rounded out 2018, with a call on Christmas Eve for a horse down in a ditch. Our volunteers are willing and able to respond to a need virtually at any time – holiday plans can wait a bit, while an animal in need usually cannot.

We also continued our tradition of sending our trained volunteers to assist the [ASPCA](#). Last year we sent 11 volunteers (some on multiple rotations) to assist with 13 cases mostly on the East Coast. We also continued our cooperative deployments with local Law Enforcement, King County Explorer Search and Rescue ([ESAR](#)), and Seattle Mountain Rescue ([SMR](#)). WASART began researching options for adding water rescue to our services, and that continues into this year.

Our third annual fundraiser – Raise the Hoof: Paws Up for WASART is happening on March 2, 2019, and is expected to be another amazing evening of benefiting animals. Please do come and join us if you are able, we'd love to see you! (See related article below.)

Sending my very best for a safe and happy 2019 to you all!

Shawndra Michell,  
*President*

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### Report from the Field

## What It Was Like: Helping at Camp Fire

**(Awareness)**

Time, location TBD

**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 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.

[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

**Upcoming Events**

**January 26, 2019**

**Tacoma Equine Client  
Education Event**

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

[Holiday Inn Tacoma Mall](#)

8402 South Hosmer Street

Tacoma, WA 98444

**May 18, 2019**

**Auburn Petpalooza**

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

[Game Park Farm](#)

303 'R' Street SE

Auburn WA 98002

**August 24, 2019**

**Auburn Valley Humane Society**



**Editor's note:** Our volunteers often respond to calls from national organizations to help out during disasters such as the Camp Fire in California. Our volunteer, Carol S., kindly wrote this article about her time there. Photo by WASART responder Carol S. from her time volunteering at California's Camp Fire response.

As the devastation from the California Camp Fire became clear, the Red Cross Gold Country Region requested the help of American Humane. On November 17<sup>th</sup> a team of nine was deployed, and I was fortunate to be one of them.

We were deployed to Gridley, Ca. at the Butte County Fairgrounds. The people and the animals we were there to help were from Paradise and surrounding areas. The Red Cross already had a shelter established for humans, but needed a facility to house the animals. Up until that time, those with animals had to fend for themselves. We were there

**Barkfest**

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

[Roegner Park](#)

601 Oravetz Road

Auburn, WA

**September 7, 2019**

[Doggiestock](#)

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

[Tollgate Farm Park](#)

1300 West North Bend Way

North Bend, WA 98405

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.



to help them deal with the issue.

Since we were the first animal shelter responders to arrive, things were a little disorganized. The first day we had to wait for our Quonset-style tents to be delivered so the National Guard folks could set them up. The next day was spent setting up the kennels and filling them with blankets and toys in anticipation of our soon-to-arrive guests. It was truly incredible to see the quality and quantity of goods and food that had been donated to support this rescue event.

By day three, word of our site had spread, and we began to receive dogs, cats, and a bird. It was touching to see people who up until a week earlier had been living a normal life and now had just lost everything, show the concern they had for their pets.

We received animals from 8 AM to 8 PM. Owners were encouraged to come see and care for their pets twice a day, and many spent more than the minimum with pets. This included walking and feeding, as well as cleaning the kennels. There were times when people had more pressing issues (like dealing with FEMA). We were there to care for their animals when they couldn't.

This was my first deployment to a disaster. The generosity of the community, both local and not so local, was incredible. Watching everyone work together and provide assistance for each other and their pets made this a Thanksgiving I will never forget.

Submitted by Carol S.  
WASART member

**Helped Out of a Ditch on Christmas Eve**





*Flame couldn't get traction in the mud and needed some help out.*

On Christmas Eve, we got a call for a horse stuck in a ditch. Upon arriving on scene, it seemed to be a fairly straightforward matter—Flame, a senior horse, was down in some muck off the side of the road. She couldn't get any kind of traction with her hind legs in order to get back on her feet. Being sensible, she settled down to wait for the humans to help her out.

Flame's owners, some friends, passersby, and a couple of Animal Control Officers from [Regional Services of King County](#) had put some straps on her and a tarp underneath in an attempt to pull her out (see photo).

We asked them to take a break while we waited for the equipment vehicle to arrive. Flame decide to lay all the way on her side and have a nap. We put some blankets on her and padded the ground so she wasn't laying with her eye in the dirt and rocks.

The vet, Dr. Robert DeWard, of [Mt. Rainier Equine Veterinary](#), arrived just before our equipment, and assessed Flame. He remained on scene to lend assistance.

Once the equipment arrived, we adjusted the straps already on her and added another that gave the people pulling more reach. We'd decided we needed to move her away from the ditch and to flat ground

to give her a chance to stand. Since we hadn't seen much effort from her, we thought there was a good chance we'd need to set the tripod up for a raise. We pulled her onto the glide, and moved her across the road to a wider spot where we could set up the tripod if needed.

At our destination, we were moving the straps to be in position for the next step when Flame gave a good effort and managed to stand on her own. Dr. DeWard checked her out. She was able to walk home under her own power with her owners beside her.

We're really grateful for those who were able to change Christmas Eve plans to come out and assist with Flame's situation.

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## Raise the Hoof: Paws up for Animals Annual Fundraiser



Join us for an afternoon of wine, appetizers, and an auction packed with fun in support of rescuing animals in dangerous situations.

We welcome our guest speaker, Justin Zimmerman, nationally recognized writer, filmmaker and professor. His narrative and documentary work has appeared in film festivals across the globe and has been broadcast on public television, where he won two international television awards. Find out more

about Justin at [Bricker-Down Productions](#). You can check out Justin's documentary on [L.A. Animal Services SMART](#) technical animal rescue team in California for free on Amazon Prime: [SMART Documentary](#).

WASART is a donation-supported service specializing in technical animal rescue and emergency sheltering. We retrieve dogs who have fallen over cliffs, horses stuck in mud, and many other situations animals find themselves in. We also set up and run emergency animal shelters so people have a place for their animals when they need to evacuate during a disaster.

Here's what we have planned:

- Wine and catered vegetarian appetizers by Jonz Catering
- 50/50 raffle
- Auction of experiences and items
- Wine pull
- Guest speaker filmmaker and writer Justin Zimmerman
- At beautiful Titlow Lodge

If you have items or experiences you'd like to donate to the auction, we'd love to hear from you at [info@washingtonsart.org](mailto:info@washingtonsart.org)

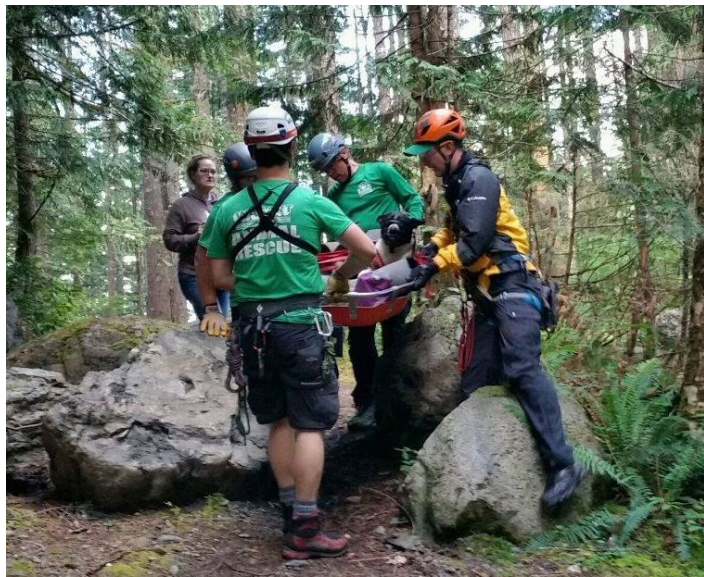
We have a fun afternoon planned and hope you can make it!

[Tickets](#)  
[Raise The Hoof](#)  
[Questions](#)  
[Donate](#)

\$40 before Feb 16  
\$45 after Feb 16  
\$50 at the door

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**Favorite Deployments of 2018 - Dog**



*Team members carry Cloe to the waiting vehicle for transport to the vet.*

In the early afternoon on Saturday, July 7th, WASART received a call requesting help for an injured dog in Skagit County. Cloe, a 5-6-year-old, 60 lb. Border Collie/Heeler cross, had wandered away from camp and ended up falling 200 feet; part of the fall was vertical. Cloe was injured, but details were not known.

A call to respond was put out to qualified WASART volunteers and by 14:00 a team was formed and headed to Texas Pond Picnic Area, 5.6 miles north of the Darrington ranger station. The last four miles or so were over a rough gravel road and was slow going for WASART's rescue equipment van. The first responders arrived on site at 16:15 and began assessing the situation; the equipment van arrived at 16:47.

Radio communications between the van (base) and the team were established as the Technical Rescue Team (TRT) discussed several methods by which Cloe could be retrieved. The TRT finally decided that the best way to raise the injured dog would be to send a litter down with an attendant using a main lowering system and a belay system. Upon reaching Cloe, the attendant would muzzle her for safety and see that she was secure in the litter before lifting commenced.



The lower went smoothly, with a few stops to clear brush out of the way. The attendant, Michael C., checked Cloe and determined that she probably had a broken leg at the least. It would be necessary to handle Cloe carefully while securing her in the litter. Meanwhile the rest of the team converted the rope systems for a raise. Cloe, attendant and litter were brought up without incident. Two of Cloe's people helped on the haul team.

Cloe's people had already notified the [Veterinary Specialty Center of Seattle](#) in Lynnwood that they would be bringing in an injured dog. After a short carry-out, Cloe was loaded into a car and taken directly to the vet. Cloe was well behaved despite her injuries and very glad to see her people. An examination by the vet revealed that she had a broken shoulder and a broken leg. She underwent immediate surgery and she is expected to recover fully.

While we would always prefer that we rescue an uninjured animal, we are always pleased to be able to reunite any animal to its humans. This deployment was one such event and we are grateful that we were able to do so.

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## Favorite Deployments of 2018 - Horse



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.

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.

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## 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.

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Time TBD

Issaquah, WA

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Time, location TBD

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Cumberland, WA 98022

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**Register:**

<http://bit.ly/WASART2019>

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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