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GRAHAM HORSES SHELTERED BY COUNTY AND VOLUNTEERS

WASART volunteers worked in conjunction with Pierce County Animal Control and the Pierce County Auditor's Office to care for 38 horses seized in Graham, WA on September 27, 2012. More than 105 volunteers of whom WASART volunteers comprise about one-third of the total number, contributed over 4100 volunteer hours for a value of approximately \$87,500, and drove over 46,000 miles to care for the horses which were seized because of severe neglect. The volunteers worked in teams of 4-5 and provide care for the horses on two shifts per day, seven days per week. The first shift started work on September 28, 2012 and care continued through November 11, 2012.

Other organizations represented include Backcountry Horsemen of Washington, Progressive Animal Welfare Society (PAWS), Pierce County Sheriff's Posse, Pierce County Animal Response Team, Northwest Horseback Search and Rescue, Peninsula Mounted Search and Rescue, and the Washington Horse Racing Commission.

ABOUT WASART

Washington State Animal Response Team is an all-volunteer, all-donation supported 501(c)(3) non-profit organization facilitating the rescue of animals in emergency situations such as floods, fires, and earthquakes as well as one-off rescues such as a horse trapped in a well, or a dog stranded halfway down a cliff.

Members train in some of the more difficult rescue areas. Skills honed by many of the group members include swift water rescue, rope work and the use of pulleys and rappelling, animal assessment and handling, and long-term sheltering. Some members have even completed courses put on by Homeland Security.

Gretchen McCallum, J.D. and Greta Cook originally conceived of WASART in response to Hurricane Katrina. "A third of the people in New Orleans wouldn't leave their homes when Katrina approached. A third of those people wouldn't leave because they weren't allowed to bring their pets with them," said McCallum, currently serving as Past President of WASART. "We were determined not to let that happen here. Not in our state."

Contact: <http://www.washingtonsart.org/>
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