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LOCAL ANIMAL RESPONSE TEAM RECEIVES SURPLUS TRUCK FROM COUNTY

King County is donating a surplus truck to Enumclaw-based animal response team WASART May 3, 2013 in a small ceremony at 1pm. County Councilmember Kathy Lambert will be present to hand over keys to WASART president Bill Daugaard, as will Captain Rob Mendel who saw the process through from start to finish.

"This is a tremendous asset we are being gifted with. The truck will enable us to arrive more quickly at a scene with our trailer and not have to rely on the equipment of our volunteers. We are very grateful to the county for their generosity."

The ceremony will take place at 1:00 at the County Road Maintenance HQ, 155 Monroe Avenue Northeast in Renton, Building G.

ABOUT WASART

Headquartered in Enumclaw, 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."

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