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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – SEPT 16, 2015

## ANIMALS FROM FIRE-RAVAGED AREAS TO BE FED THANKS TO ANONYMOUS DONATION

Thanks to generous gift, the Washington State Animal Response Team (WASART) will be able to provide both domestic and wild animals feed for the winter in areas devastated by the wildfires in Washington State.

The project is being called Feed After Fire, and will be in force as long as the funds and need are there.

The donation, from a source who wishes to remain anonymous, totals \$50,000, and will be earmarked for purchasing feed, arranging transportation, and distributing the feed. In the case of domestic animals, many have been left without food as fires destroyed winter stores of hay and other feed. For wild animals, much of the habitat they rely on has been disrupted and many face a hungry winter.

“This isn’t normally within our purview, but we were contacted by a donor who is very concerned for the welfare of the animals affected by the fires, both wild and domestic, and we are in a position to be able to help,” said Michaela Eaves, WASART’s public information officer.

WASART, an all-volunteer nonprofit, has been involved in the emergency animal sheltering for evacuees for the last two years in eastern Washington. The contacts made within the state and county governments during those deployments will assist in making sure the aid gets to people and animals who need it.

Not all details have been settled, but volunteers are working hard to make the most of the donation. More information will be shared on [feedafterfire.com](http://feedafterfire.com).

## ABOUT WASART

Washington State Animal Response Team is an all-volunteer, all-donation supported 501(c)(3) nonprofit 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 year-round in some of the more difficult rescue areas. Skills honed by many of the members include rope work and the use of pulleys and rappelling, animal assessment and handling, and emergency animal sheltering. Deploying members are also required to take FEMA training and response-ready members are certified State Emergency Workers.

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

Training Director of WASART. “We were determined not to let that happen here. Not in our state.”

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

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