

WASART Media Contacts:
Michaela Eaves
PIO
public-info@washingtonsart.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – FEB 20, 2015

FULL-SIZED ARTICULATED HORSE TO HELP TRAIN EMERGENCY RESPONDERS

A fully articulated horse mannequin arrived in Enumclaw, Washington to assist in training members of the Washington State Animal Response Team and other emergency responders who deal with horses and other large animals.

The horse is one of only 13 in America, and the only one of its kind in the Pacific Northwest.

“When we respond to calls with horses and other livestock, we often have to manipulate them in ways that are difficult to train for. We carefully roll them from one side to the other, tuck up their legs, and strap them to a large rescue glide. When we are learning these skills, we want to do it in a way that is safe for both the learner and the subject,” said Michaela Eaves, Public Information Officer for the non-profit group.

The fiberglass horse weighs about 400 pounds -- not as much as a real horse, but definitely enough to get a feel for moving and handling a large amount of weight.

The horse was manufactured in England and made the long journey to America by boat. The horse is a made-to-order piece of specialized equipment and has been price-prohibitive for the team. However, it remained a long-time goal. This summer, WASART received a grant from The Snoqualmie Tribe to help with the summer’s fire response and prepare for future events. WASART was able to purchase the horse with the grant funds.

The horse, named Randy by the manufacturer, is painted to look like an appaloosa and is cast in the form of an intact male so responders can develop the skills necessary to be careful with the softer parts of a horse’s anatomy.

WASART plans to hold an auction to rename the horse in the near future.

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 year-round in some of the more difficult rescue areas. Skills honed by many of the group members include technical rope work and the use of pulleys and rappelling, animal assessment and handling, and emergency sheltering. Deploying members are also required to take FEMA training.

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 for WASART. "We were determined not to let that happen here. Not in our state."

<http://www.washingtonsart.org/>
public-info@washingtonsart.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WASART>

Twitter: @WASARTresponse