



2022 WASHINGTON STATE ANIMAL RESPONSE TEAM ANNUAL REPORT



Aligning to our Vision

2022 was a generous year of collaboration for the critters. With so many dedicated WASART members to thank, the Board of Directors changed Volunteer of the Quarter to Recognition of the Quarter, resulting in a flood of appreciation that has highlighted the quality dedication of our valued WASART team. During a year of recovery and transition back to the new normal, it was such a pleasure to finally get to celebrate the commitment of our members in person.

The topic of extreme heat events is far from exhausted. WASART still serves as advising specialists to the community as evidenced by WASART being invited to share insights about the pet shelters opened and coordinated during last year's extreme heat event at the 2022 Summer Hazard Seminar.

WASART members rose to the occasion by providing support to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) through various cross-country missions this year. Some members deployed to Florida to assist with emergency shelters after Hurricane Ian, while others deployed to Nevada to assist with a seizure of 300 neglected dogs. Apart from collaborations with the ASPCA, WASART joined forces with several other notable organizations. This included conducting a packing clinic with the Backcountry Horsemen in Wenatchee, water rescue training with Summit to Sound and Whatcom Search and Rescue, presenting for the American Driving Society, teaching canine wilderness first aid classes, creating training videos for the Emergency Animal Shelter Search and Rescue Conference, and presenting for the Harbor Association of Volunteers for Animals. (To name a few!)

A notable first in 2022 was the inaugural deployment of WASART's Technical Water Rescue Team to rescue Lobo the dog on the Wallace River.

When we were not busy training, collaborating with partner organizations, or out on deployments, we strengthened our fleet and response capabilities. We installed a new winch on our Isuzu rescue box van, thanks to funding from the Bill Leander Animal Trust Fund and installation from Nelson Truck Equipment Company, Inc. This significantly increases the capability of the van and will improve WASART's ability to respond effectively in animal emergency situations. To round out the good news, we are actively searching for a truck to replace our 2006 Ford F250 after receiving a generous donation from a past donor.

Looking forward to seeing you out on the road in 2023!

In gratitude,

Josette Holden, President

Vision

WASART's vision:

To be the premier animal disaster response organization throughout the Northwest.

- Recognized as a model for other animal response organizations
- Member of the Governor's Readiness Council
- State accreditation/
recognition/appointment





RESPECT

CREDIBILITY

HONESTY

ACCESSIBILITY

ETHICS

Values

Mission statement

Helping Animals and Their Owners in Emergencies

Integrity

We do what we say we can do. Above reproach as well as morally and legally responsible for our actions and decisions.

Education

Developing and sharing knowledge and technical expertise. Utilizing skills and available resources to inform and train members and the broader community.

Professionalism

Excellence in reputation and delivery.

Teamwork

Collaborative skills, experience and training, and willingness to work with each other and other organizations. This allows us to expand our capabilities. Respectful collaboration to efficiently achieve our goals.

Volunteerism

Personal commitment to participate; to participate to the level we can. We are committed and we believe in our Higher Purpose.

2022 at a Glance



24

Deployments



148

Members



30,042

Miles Traveled



6,123

Volunteer Hours

\$213,509

Value of Volunteer's Hours*



*Value of non-professional volunteers' hours (at WA rate of \$34.87/hr. 2021 rates, most recent available. Source: independentsector.org)



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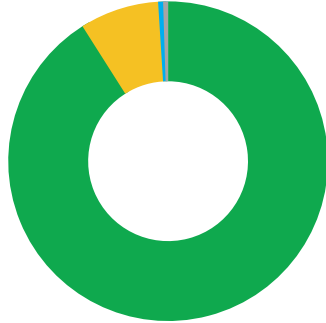
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Balance

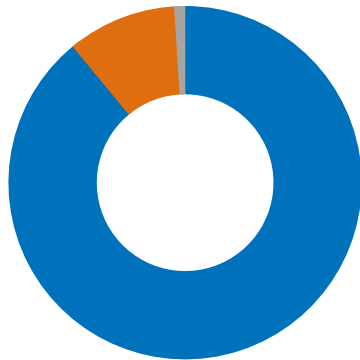
Assets & Liabilities	2021	2022
Total Assets	\$244,201	\$309,576
Total Liabilities	\$0	\$419
Net Assets	\$244,201	\$309,157

Income



Fundraising and Income	Amount	Percent
Contributions, gifts, and grants	\$124,223	91%
Program services revenue	\$11,314	8%
Investment income	\$257	<1%
Promotions & merchandise	\$887	<1%
Total	\$136,681	100%

Expenses



Summary of Expenses	Amount	Percent
Program service expenses	\$64,104	89%
Management & general expenses	\$7,210	10%
Fundraising expenses	\$412	1%
Total	\$82,293	100%



Serving Our Communities

Emergency preparedness and education are a core part of WASART's mission. We continued our commitment to serving our communities in 2022. WASART volunteers staffed a trailhead outreach at the Middle Fork Trailhead of King County for hikers with dogs in combination with a Technical Rescue Team training. In addition, we held two WASART Open Houses at the King County Office of Emergency Management.

We presented at the Issaquah Women's Club, American Driving Society, the 2022 Summer Hazard Seminar, as well as the Harbor Association of Volunteers for Animals. A notable outreach event was the joint packing training held with the Backcountry Horsemen of Washington, Wenatchee Chapter. We look forward to more opportunities to serve our communities in 2023.



Keeping Animals and Owners Safe

Emergency response is the main type of situation WASART is called for. Some of the rescues we see are dogs over cliffs and horses over embankments or stuck in mud. It's not just animals we are saving. By providing a way to retrieve an animal that is in a location that could harm a well-meaning owner, we save owners as well. We also set up and run emergency animal shelters in disasters, like wildfires, and provide cooling shelters in extreme heat events so owners can take care of themselves. In fact, nearly all the photos in this report come from emergency responses we have completed this year, including our first swiftwater rescue.







Education

Knowledge, Training, Preparedness

We have a deep commitment to training our volunteer members to respond to emergency animal situations, both individual animal emergencies and wide-scale disasters. We only deploy volunteer members who are trained for the situation to which they are being deployed. We emphasize hands-on training with live animals when possible for real world experience as well as bring instructors who are experienced in a wide range of emergency situations

In 2022, we had two Base and Operations Support Trainings, the class needed to deploy with WASART. We also held our Emergency Animal Shelter training where volunteers learned about animal handling and behavior, as well as how to set up and run an emergency animal shelter. In addition, we had a paw wrapping and first aid training and a Duty Officer/Call Coordinator training. In October, we held our Annual Exercise, a WASART-wide event where members utilize the skills they have been learning all year.

Additionally, our Technical Rescue Team and Technical Water Rescue Team hold monthly trainings to hone their skills and learn new techniques.



Strengthening Partnerships

We are fortunate to work alongside some of the best organizations in search and rescue and animal response. In 2023, we were assisted by King County Explorer Search and Rescue with the rescue of Fisher the dog, who collapsed on a hiking trail in the Middle Fork region of King County. This rescue would not have been possible without their assistance and we are grateful for our partnership with them. In addition, our Technical Water Rescue Team trained alongside Summit to Sound Search and Rescue, Whatcom County, sharing knowledge, increasing their skill set, and building relationships as many of our callouts are multi-organizational.

In 2022, WASART sent seven members to assist the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) on 7-day rotations. Two members deployed to assist the ASPCA in the aftermath of Hurricane Ian. Five members deployed with the ASPCA to assist with the 300 dog-neglect seizure in Nevada. Several members had multiple rotations during this deployment. These deployments not only serve the communities in which they are located, but also give our members the opportunity to learn valuable skills and gain experience in emergency situations that can be applied here in Washington.





M-2

WASART
WILDFIRE ANIMAL RESCUE & SUPPORT TEAM
ANIMAL RESCUE



Lobo

On the afternoon of December 10th, we received a call about a shepherd dog that was stuck across the Wallace River in Sultan, WA. The dog was stranded in an area of the river with a high embankment of dense brush as well as approximately 40 feet of thick blackberry bushes behind the location. He was unable to swim back across the river or to climb out of his position to dry land.

WASART's Technical Water Rescue Team (TWRT), Technical Rescue Team (TRT), as well as Base and Operations Support arrived on scene and assessed the situation. Our plan was to paddle upstream of the dog, strategically maneuver to his location, and carefully help him into the raft. Three members of the Technical Rescue Team would remain on the near side shore ready with throw bags as down river safeties. A safety briefing was held, the intended course of action discussed, and the rescue commenced.

We launched our raft with four members of the Technical Water Rescue Team onboard and paddled upstream of the dog's location.

Two members of the TWRT were let out of the raft, each with rope bags, on a sand and rock embankment shortly upstream of the dog. Once these team members and their ropes were ready, they carefully lowered the raft downriver using ropes to control its mobility until we arrived at the dog's location.

As we reached the dog, he appeared cold and wet but otherwise okay. We placed him in our raft and secured him for the trip across the river. We then traversed the river to the near shore where the TRT and Base Ops were ready to receive him. The dog was readily taking treats, pets, and praise on scene.

The reporting person kindly took responsibility for him in hopes of finding his owner. He was reunited with his owner on the following morning.

Congratulations to our Technical Water Rescue Team on their inaugural deployment. Their dedication to water rescue training and safety made this rescue possible.



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WASAFET
NPS





Layla

On July 25, we received a call about a puppy named Layla who had gone over a cliff edge by Dirty Harry's Balcony. Layla was stranded on a small ledge about fifteen feet down. Her owner stated that she did not appear to be injured but there was no safe way to rescue her, as just beyond the ledge was a vertical drop of several hundred feet. The Technical Rescue Team and gear truck were deployed.

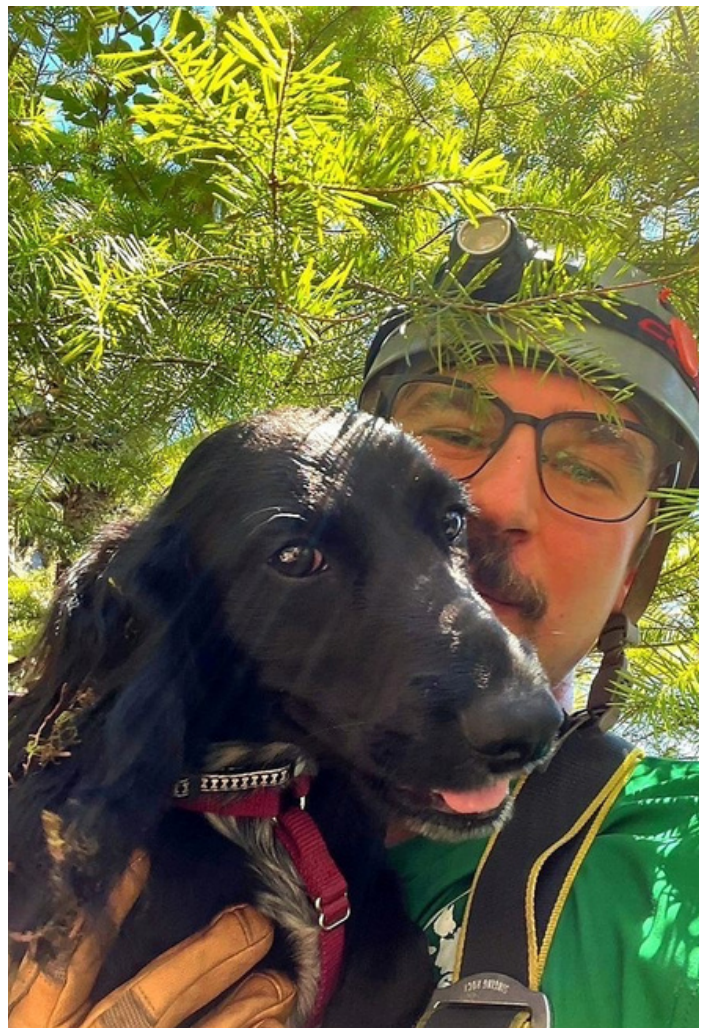
Upon arrival at the trailhead parking lot, we were greeted by friends of Layla's owner who kindly offered to help carry gear up the trail. After handing out extra water for hydration on this hot summer morning, we headed up the trail, hiking close to two miles and 1200 feet elevation, in three separate groups.

Upon reaching Layla's owner, the situation was assessed and a rescue method was planned. Layla indeed appeared to be uninjured on her small ledge and was free to pace back and forth a short distance.

The situation required technical rigging to lower an attendant to secure Layla and raise them both back to the top of the cliff safely. A twin tension rope system was set up. We lowered an attendant over the top of the cliff and down to Layla's small ledge. After Layla was secured, the rope system was changed from a lowering system to a pulley system to haul them both back up to the top of the cliff.

Once at the top, Layla was leashed and reunited with her owner with a happily wagging tail. Layla was readily drinking water, eating treats, and soaking up all the pets and praises from everyone on scene. She was able to hike back down the trail with her owner and friends and posed for a few quick photos at our base gear truck. The team then debriefed, packed up, and headed home.

We are so glad to have been able to reunite this puppy with her owner who made the right call and asked for assistance.





Fisher

We received a call late in the evening of August 26th for assistance with a 90-pound Labrador Retriever named Fisher. He had collapsed while hiking with his owner on the Tin Cup Joe Falls Trail, off the Middle Fork Trail in North Bend, and was unable to make it back to the trailhead.

We reached out to our friends at King County Explorer Search and Rescue (ESAR) to borrow a litter and wheel (this was to save time as their equipment was closer to the trailhead), as well as request additional volunteers to assist with the rescue. Four ESAR, two King County 4x4 Search and Rescue, and three WASART members responded.

We met at the Dingford Creek trailhead where we packed the litter and gathered needed supplies before heading out on the trail. The ESAR operations leader remained with the rescue truck and ran communications to the team.

We hit the Middle Fork Trail close to 1:30 am. Upon reaching the trail turnoff at Cripple Creek, we took the narrow foot path up the steep and, at times, hard to navigate trail with large fallen trees, debris, and overgrowth. We reached Fisher close to 3 am. His tail wagged and he drank water readily, but it was evident his hind area was bothering him.

Due to the difficult terrain in this blowdown section, a pack-out from this location would be very difficult. As he was able to stand, our plan was to make an emergency harness to assist and support him as far as possible down this section of trail to the junction with the Middle Fork Trail. From there, we would use the litter and wheel to transport him the remaining way back to the trailhead.

After securing Fisher with an emergency harness made from webbing, we assisted him down this steep portion of trail. We made it about 3/4 of the way down the Tin Cup Joe Falls Trail before Fisher was unable to continue any further. We assembled the litter and secured him in it using webbing and the harness. Once secured, we hand carried him in the litter the rest of the way down to the junction with the Middle Fork Trail.



We arrived back at the trailhead a little after 5 am. Fisher was unpacked from the litter, given pets and praises, and placed in the owner's vehicle. The team disassembled the equipment, packed up, debriefed, and headed home just as the sun was rising. We are glad to have been able to help Fisher get back to the trailhead safely.

Thank you to his owner for making the right call and asking for assistance. A huge thank you to King County Explorer Search and Rescue and King County 4x4 SAR for their assistance. It's always a team effort and we are fortunate to have such great organizations to partner with.



In Honor Of

Linda Marquardt — Meyer,
Deborah

Yoshi the Fjord — Wyatt,
Jennifer

Rory Keller and Krista

Mirhoseini — Niemeyer,
Patrick

Larry and Jennifer Langen —
Landen, Wendy

In Memory Of

Stewie — Lake Washington
Saddle Club

Smokey Johnson — Rempel,
Tina

Jazz Steinkerchner — Tucker,
Catherine

Jazz Steinkerchner — Lum,
Kerry

Peach Pooh Bear - Beauchamp,
Steven

Jane Brown and Barry Rhodes
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Meyer, Deborah
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Niemeyer, Patrick
Palmroth, Karen and Phil
Ruth's Dog Walking
Seattle Foundation
Seidner, Allison
Smokoska, Rebecca Bruns, ACO
Wilson, Vicki

Did we get it wrong?

We value your contribution and it's our goal to make sure everyone is correctly represented. If we missed your name or misspelled it, please let us know at fundraising@wasart.org and we'll issue a revision.

*Some corporations or employers allow donations from users or employees. The smaller donations from multiple individuals are pooled and gifted under the names of the larger entity. The names of the individuals are removed from the donation what it is received, so unfortunately we can't thank the individuals themselves, but we are grateful none the less.

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