



# 2024 WASHINGTON STATE ANIMAL RESPONSE TEAM ANNUAL REPORT



Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on 2024, I'm incredibly proud of how far the Washington State Animal Response Team has come—both in our operational readiness and in the strength of our community. This year was one of growth, connection, and rededication to our mission of helping animals and their people in times of crisis.

Training and preparedness remain at the core of everything we do. Our volunteers continued to demonstrate their commitment to excellence through countless hours of education and skill-building. In 2024, we held two Base and Operations Support Trainings—the foundational class required for deployment—and we took meaningful steps to make training more accessible to all members. Fees for this course were reduced from \$100 to \$50, and we removed fees entirely for both our Transport Training and Emergency Animal Sheltering classes. These changes were made with the belief that every member who is willing to learn and serve should have the opportunity to do so without financial barriers.

We also continued to expand and refine our hands-on training programs. These experiences ensure that when we deploy—whether for a single animal or a wide-scale emergency—our volunteers are confident, capable, and prepared.

A major highlight of the year was the first-ever Field Training Weekend, held in Cle Elum. Over two days, participants honed leadership and backcountry skills, learning navigation, communication, first aid for both humans and dogs, and how to prepare for 24- and 48-hour deployments. This new training helped establish clear qualifications for our Field Team Leaders, resulting in 14 newly qualified Team Leaders—a milestone achievement for WASART.

We also introduced a Mentor Program in 2024, pairing new members with experienced WASART volunteers to help them navigate training, deployment, and team culture. This program strengthens our sense of community and ensures that new volunteers feel supported from their very first day.

Beyond training, WASART remained deeply engaged in outreach and education, connecting with the public at events like the Tacoma Equine Expo, Enumclaw Pet Days, Bark at the Park, and presentations with equine and animal control organizations across the state. These opportunities allow us to share our message of preparedness and compassion, building stronger relationships with both the public and our partner organizations.

As I look back on the past year, I'm filled with gratitude—for our volunteers who give their time and heart to this work, for our partners who share our mission, and for the animals and people we serve. Together, we've built a stronger, more capable organization ready to face whatever challenges come next.

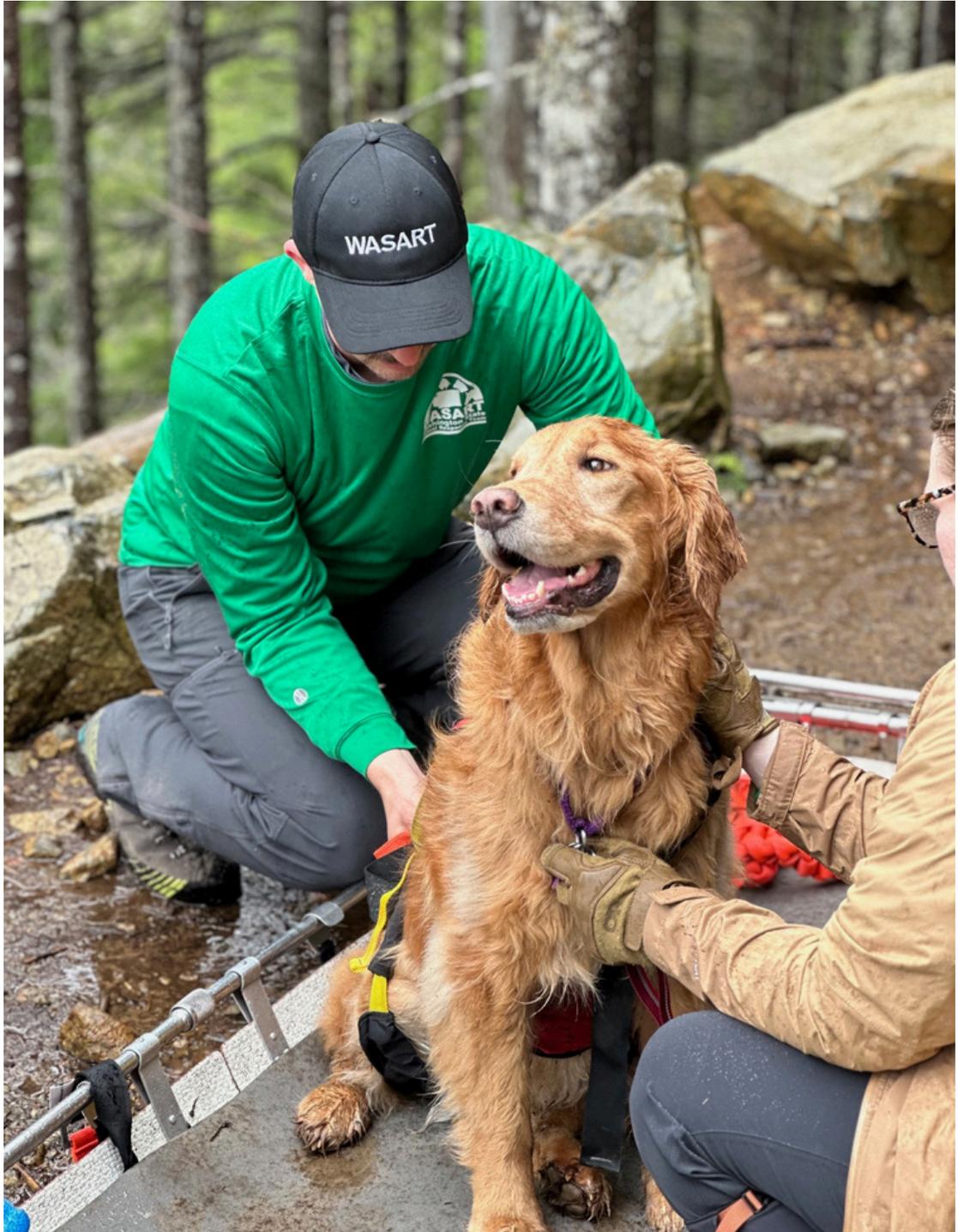
In Gratitude,

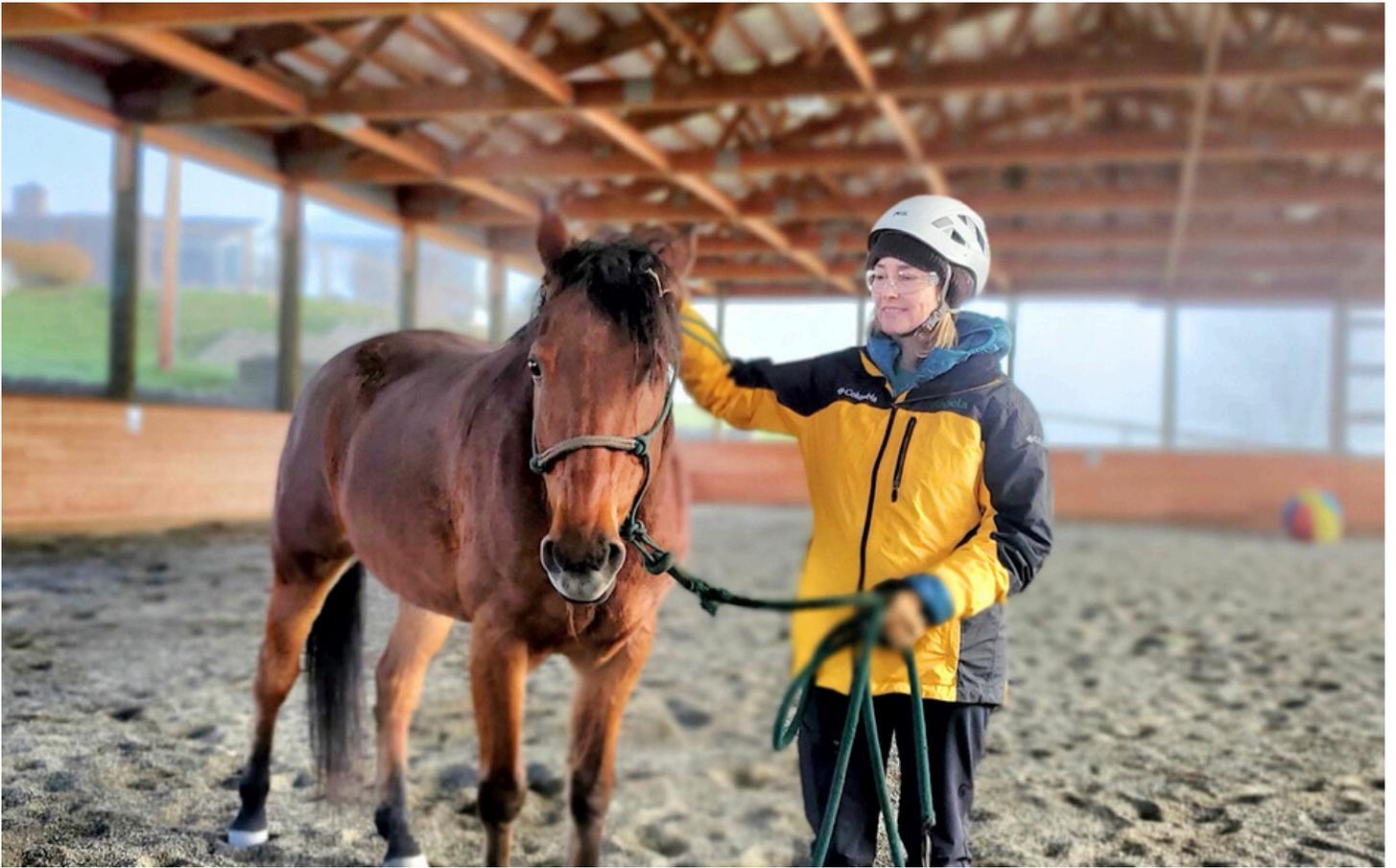
Lynn Snow  
President

## **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.

# 2024 at a Glance



19

Deployments



142

Members



36,846

Miles Traveled



7,337

Volunteer Hours

\$314,407

Value of Volunteer's Hours\*



\*Value of non-professional volunteers' hours (at WA rate of \$40.28/hr. 2023 rates, most recent available. Source: independentsector.org).



# 2024 Board of Directors

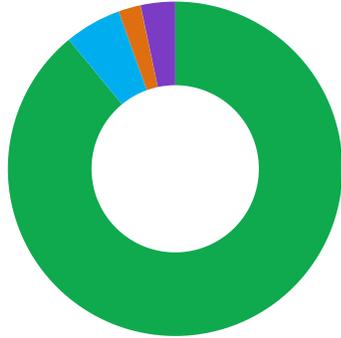


Lynn Snow	<b>President</b>
Lenore Marentette	<b>Vice-President</b>
Noah Bernays	<b>Secretary</b>
Gretchen McCallum, JD	<b>Treasurer</b>
Kimberly Taylor	<b>Training Director</b>
Michaela Eaves	<b>Public Information Officer</b>
William (Bill) Daugaard, PE	<b>Past President</b>
Jeff Dahl, DVM	<b>Technical Rescue Committee Chair</b>
Rory Kelleher	<b>Technical Water Rescue Committee Chair</b>
Julie Shipman	<b>Membership Committee Chair</b>
Greta Cook	<b>Supply Committee Chair</b>
Leo Notenboom	<b>Communications/Technology Chair</b>
Jenifer Clark	<b>Outreach Committee Chair</b>
Jeanette Whitmire	<b>Volunteer Management Committee Chair</b>

# Balance

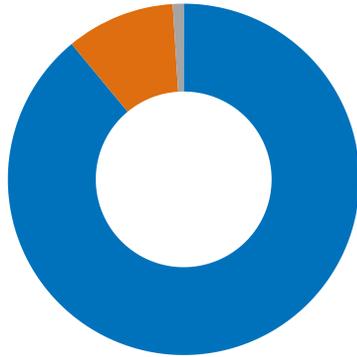
Assets & Liabilities	2023	2024
Total Assets	\$309,566	\$304,965
Total Liabilities	\$1,420	\$1,440
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>\$308,146</b>	<b>\$303,525</b>

# Income



Fundraising and Income	Amount	Percent
Contributions, gifts, and grants	\$70,199	91.70%
Program services revenue	\$1,065	1.39%
Investment income	\$4,663	6.09%
Other Revenue	\$794	1.04%
Promotions & merchandise	-\$167	-0.22%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$76,554</b>	<b>100%</b>

# Expenses



Summary of Expenses	Amount	Percent
Program related expenses	\$75,311	88.71%
Management & general expenses	\$9,387	11.06%
Fundraising expenses	\$193	0.23%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$84,891</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Serving Our Communities

Emergency preparedness and education remain at the heart of WASART's mission, and in 2024 we continued our strong commitment to serving communities across Washington. Our team members dedicated countless volunteer hours to sharing knowledge, building relationships, and helping the public better understand how to keep both people and animals safe in emergencies.

Throughout the year, we participated in a wide variety of outreach events, including the Tacoma Equine Expo, the NW Region USPS Horse Management Seminar, and presentations for the Kitsap Lady Trail Riders, Tahoma Chapter Back Country Horsemen, and the Washington Animal Control Academy. We also connected with the community at the Insight Climbing Gym fundraising event, Enumclaw Pet Days, and Bark at the Park at T-Mobile Park.

Our Technical Rescue Team (TRT) hosted several hands-on demonstrations and trainings, such as a dog first aid session at Marymoor Park and a mock dog packout training at the Middle Fork Trailhead. We also presented at Save a Forgotten Equine (SAFE) and joined Pierce County's Emergency Operations Center to speak with their emergency medical group. To round out a busy year, we joined the fun at the Battle of the Badges event in Renton with a festive "Deck the Barn" theme.

We are proud of the connections we've made and the knowledge we've shared throughout 2024. As we look ahead, we're excited for even more opportunities in 2025 to engage with our communities, promote preparedness, and continue strengthening the bond between people and animals in times of need.





## 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.





## Knowledge, Training, Preparedness

WASART is deeply committed to ensuring our volunteers are well-trained and ready to respond safely and effectively to animal emergencies—whether involving a single animal in distress or a large-scale disaster. We only deploy volunteers who have completed the necessary training for the situation at hand, maintaining the highest standards of safety and competence. Hands-on experience is a cornerstone of our training program, and whenever possible, we incorporate live-animal scenarios to give our members realistic, practical experience. Our instructors bring a wealth of expertise from across the spectrum of emergency and animal response.

In 2024, we hosted two Base and Operations Support Trainings, a foundational class required for deployment with WASART. We also offered Emergency Animal Shelter Training and held our Annual Sheltering Exercise, where volunteers gained experience in animal handling, behavior, and the setup and management of temporary emergency shelters. At our Transport Training, participants learned how to operate WASART

vehicles and trailers and how to assist field teams during deployments. The Technical Rescue Team (TRT) conducted a dog paw wrapping and first aid session at Marymoor Park, open to all members, and held additional trainings such as vehicle winch operations and a mock dog packout at the Middle Fork Trailhead.

A highlight of the year was our first Field Training Weekend, a two-day event in Cle Elum designed to develop leadership and field readiness skills. Field Team Leader nominees received instruction in team management, while all participants practiced backcountry safety, navigation, radio communication, overnight sheltering, and both human and canine first aid. Members also learned what to pack for 24- and 48-hour deployments and reviewed essential deployment protocols.

Throughout the year, the Technical Rescue Team continued to train monthly, alternating between light and heavy systems work to refine their techniques and maintain operational excellence.







## Strengthening Partnerships

We are fortunate to collaborate with some of the most skilled and dedicated organizations in search and rescue and animal response. In 2024, Summit to Sound Search and Rescue joined us on a deployment to safely bring a dog named Yuki off a dangerous ledge. Our Technical Rescue Team also trained alongside King County Search and Rescue's Rigging Team in a joint exercise that strengthened teamwork and technical skills. Additionally, we partnered with the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) to support sheltering operations in North Carolina.

Beyond these collaborations, we continue to work closely with animal control, law enforcement, fire departments, and local veterinarians throughout Washington. We deeply value the relationships we've built with these outstanding partners and look forward to continuing to grow and strengthen these partnerships in the years ahead.







### Yuki

On February 29, we received a call about a Pyrenees mix named Yuki who was stuck on a cliff ledge off the Pacific Northwest Trail in Whatcom County. WASART responded in partnership with our friends at Summit to Sound Search and Rescue (STS).

We arrived on scene and met with the owner and STS responders. As only Yuki's approximate location was known, our first step was to search the area from the ground below to pinpoint her exact location for the rigging rescue. Yuki's owner had an idea of the general area she was at and she could be heard barking. After searching, we were able to see her on a small ledge 250 feet below the trail. There was a vertical drop of 50 feet off smooth rock on either side of her and no way for her to safely travel out on her own.

We marked a point on the trail above from which we thought we could reach her, packed up our gear, and started the hike up. An STS member and the owner remained at the base of the cliff to keep a visual on her from the

ground. Another team remained at the parking lot trailhead to run operation support.

When we reached the area directly above Yuki, we used rope and prusiks to safely travel down 150 feet of steep and bushy terrain. From here, we assessed and devised a plan for her rescue. The situation required technical rigging to lower an attendant the additional 100 vertical feet to her position.

We set up a twin tension rope system. The attendant was lowered down the steep slope to Yuki. We did not have a direct visual on Yuki due to the terrain so the ground team directed the attendant to her location.

When the attendant reached Yuki, she appeared healthy, uninjured, and her tail was wagging. She was on a small ledge about 4 feet long, a mound of mud and dirt held against the rock face by a clump of small twigs growing from a crack in the rock. Yuki was secured into a rescue harness, muzzled, and attached to the rope system for the trip down. While securing her, the weather changed to light snow and hail



adding a challenging component. Once ready, they were lowered together 50 feet to the cliff base where Yuki was happily reunited with her owner. After being leashed, she headed back to the trailhead with a wagging tail.

The rigging team, who was stationed on the side of the slope, packed up the ropes and gear and climbed back up the 150 feet to the trail. They then hiked down to the trailhead.

Once all teams were at the trailhead parking lot, we debriefed, packed up, and headed home.

We are so glad to have been able to help Yuki get back safely to her owner.

A huge thanks to our partners at Summit to Sound Search and Rescue for their professionalism and willingness to always help. Great team efforts make for great outcomes.







### Mule Needing Help Out of Mud

WASART was contacted about a mule that was trapped in a knee deep mud hole in the middle of a field and was unable to self rescue. WASART's Technical Rescue Team and equipment truck deployed to the scene.

On arrival, we assessed the situation. There were muddy conditions in the pasture, including thick mud and clay, creating footing issues and multiple sinkholes. We were especially concerned about the suction of the mud we'd be dealing with, and responder safety when operating around the animal in the deep mud. We placed strips of plywood around the mule to provide a walking and working platform. The veterinarian and other non-team members were offered helmets. We made a plan for the extrication and got to work.

We divided into teams with assigned tasks. One team set up a haul system on the

dorsal side of the mule with a tractor being an anchor point. A second team set up the tripod in a nearby area on stable ground. A third team, tasked with mule rigging, created a strategy to extract the mule from the thick mud and clay using two rescue straps and performing a sideways drag.

In order to move the mule while avoiding injury, and effectively utilizing the compressed air lance (a tool used to loosen the mud surrounding a trapped animal or person during a mud rescue), the thick clay mud needed to be turned to a waterier consistency. We removed clumps of thick mud to make the area surrounding the mule more workable. We then used a Nicopolous Needle (a circular metal tube used to pass a line of webbing or rope under an animal stuck in the mud), to guide the rescue straps under the mule's abdomen. Next, we added warm water to the legs and tail area to make a waterier consistency which allowed the mud lances to



aerate the mud, breaking the suction around the legs while the haul team completed a sideways drag to remove the mule.

Once the mule was out, it made several unsuccessful attempts to stand. We used a forward assist to move the mule from the hole and onto more solid ground. After several more unsuccessful attempts to stand, it was decided to sedate the mule. After sedation, the mule was placed onto the rescue glide and moved to the location of the tripod for raising. A tractor was initially used to pull the mule and rescue glide away from the muddy area and then WASART members dragged the glide the rest of the way to the tripod. At this point, the mule

was able to shakily stand up under its own power, without needing the tripod, and was carefully walked to promote circulation and warmth. We used blankets and towels to clean and dry the mule as much as possible. While standing, the mule ate and drank, which were good signs. After about 30 minutes of walking, cleaning, drying, eating, and drinking the mule was steady on its feet and placed into a nearby stall.

The team cleaned and packed up gear, debriefed, and headed home in the early morning hours.

Thanks to all of our members who responded to the call and to the mule owner for reaching out for help.





### Luna

On July 20th, we received a call about a Great Dane, named Luna, who was on the Lake Serene trail and unable to make it back down the trail.

Our team arrived at the trailhead along with our equipment truck. We packed up our gear, including rescue litter and wheel, and hiked 2 miles up the trail to Luna and her owner.

On arrival, Luna appeared calm and bright and stood up to greet the team. However, she was trembling in her hind legs and was sensitive placing all limbs. It was quickly determined that she was unable to walk down on her own and needed to be carried in the litter back to the trailhead.

We assembled the rescue litter, secured Luna in it, and then headed down the trail. She was calm and settled quickly into the litter for her ride. The first half of the trail was the most difficult with steps, fallen logs, rocky terrain, and stream crossings. The second half of the trail was easier terrain which allowed more efficient movement downhill. We offered her water on occasion during the ride down.

On arrival back at the trailhead, we helped her into her owner's SUV and they headed on their way. We debriefed, packed up our gear, and headed home in the late evening hours.

We are thankful to have been able to help Luna and her owner get back to safety. We are always a phone call away when assistance is needed.







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](mailto:fundraising@wasart.org) and we'll issue a revision.

## In Honor Of

**Gerry** — Anonymous (multiple)  
**Julie Shipman** — Bouton, Sharon  
**Helen** — Burrows, Brianna  
**Adventure Dog, Joey** —  
 Kollmansberger, Lisa  
**Heartbreaks** — Leet, Lois  
**Helen** — Nguyen, Ashley  
**Kates Beloved Dog, Zibby**—  
 Solberg, Mary  
**Raider and Riley, Wonderful  
 Dogs** — Vine, Catherine  
**Helen** — Walker Family  
**Mele Winn's Birthday** — Winn,  
 Patricia  
**Yoshi the Fjord** — Wyatt,  
 Jennifer

## In Memory Of

**Sweet Helen and love for  
 Kendall** — Christie, Lynn  
**Ariel** — Giuntoli, Kim & Jim  
**Hank Whitmire** — James, Tina  
**Ken Hasbargen** — Olson, Rex &  
 Steffini  
**Ken Hasbargen** — Schmidt,  
 Susan  
**Buddy** — Wm, Donna  
**Ken Hasbargen** — Wolfe,  
 Marilyn

## Thoroughbred (\$10,000+)

Jasper Family Giving

## Holstein (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Anonymous (mutiple)  
 Enumclaw Expo Center  
 Walker Family  
 Page, Kathy

## Alpaca (\$1,000 - \$4,999)

Anderson, Leanna  
 Belair, Shannon  
 Crawford, Bruce  
 Facebook Donations (multiple)  
 Hansen, Karyl  
 KLeo Foundation  
 Lang, Michelle  
 Liles, Jackie  
 Microsoft Corp. (multiple)  
 Mulholland, Diane  
 Paypal Giving Fund

## Labrador (\$500 - \$999)

Adams, Barbara  
 Breazeale, Sona  
 Ferguson, Sheri  
 Foothills Veterinary Hospital  
 Francis, Steven  
 Gately, Teresa  
 Gates Foundation  
 Hovind, Christina  
 Lui, Barbara  
 Marentette, Lenore  
 Maurer, Linda  
 Morgan, Kveta  
 Newell, Trisha  
 NW Overland Rally  
 Palmroth, Karen & Phil  
 Ruth's Dog Walking  
 Sparks, Karen  
 Wilson, Vicky  
 Witrak, M.D., Bonnie

## Merino (\$301 - \$499)

Costco Wholesale Corp.  
 Davidson, Jeanette  
 Douceur, Sherry & John  
 Ellis, Heather

\*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 sometimes removed from the donation when it is received, so unfortunately we can't always thank the individuals themselves, but we are grateful nonetheless.

**Merino (\$301 - \$499)**

Ellis, Susan  
Evergreen Golden Retriever  
Club  
Fong, Tina & Cooper, Steve  
Gerdes, Cynthia  
Kennedy, Wendy  
Marquardt, Linda  
Moore, Gwendolyn  
Pancake, Norma  
Vadillo Herrera, Fanny

**Manx (\$0 - \$300)**

Adams, Melissa  
Amburgey, Mike  
Anderheggen-Leif, Lise  
Anderson, Brian  
Bachelder, Karen  
Backiel, Dana  
Baker, Allyson  
Benson, Susan  
Best, Carol Ann  
Bhan, Timothy  
Blank, Catherine  
Bolles-Morrison, Julianna  
Bonin, Claire  
Bouton, Sharon  
Bridges Westerman, DVM, Dana  
Britsch, Douglas  
Brown, Cynthia  
Burke, Nancy  
Burr, Kathie & David  
Burrows, Brianna  
Carlson, Candace  
Carlson, Marilyn  
Carlyle, Beth  
Chamberlin, Colleen  
Champion, Catherine  
Charity Gift Certificates  
Christie, Lynn  
Claypool, Cindy  
Cliffe, Charlie & Nikki  
Closson, Cheryl  
Cottle, Brent

Cottle, Brent  
Custis, Kelly  
Danielson, Sharon  
Davis, Patty  
Delpilar, Dante  
Deran, Tara  
DiMaio, Leslie  
Doering, Tracy  
Dorrah Ogoshi, Ilse  
Duchesne, Ritz  
Dyen, Michael  
Eaves, Michaela  
Ekle, Nicole  
Erckmann, Lynn  
Erckmann, W. James  
Expeditors International of WA,  
Inc., Seattle, WA  
Felsenthal, Ellen  
Felt, Dawn  
Fitzpatrick, Kayce  
Flatten, Brad and Jan  
Ford, Jeanne  
Fulton, Julie  
Gaddis, Anastasia  
Gagnon, Carrie Lee  
Gevirtzman, Sarah  
Giuntoli, Kim & Jim  
Goltz, Jennifer  
Gorans Gill, Gretchen  
Greenwald, Henry  
Guerra, Monique  
Hann, JD, Kimberly  
Harvey, Peter  
Havkins, Sabina  
Hewlett Packard Enterprise  
Foundation, Washington, D.C.  
Hollinger, Chris  
Howard, Donna  
Hummel, Sara  
Hyland, Shannon  
Jackson, Jennifer  
James, Tina  
Jenkins, John  
Jette-Kelly, Shelley  
Johnson, Nicole  
Johnson, Sydney  
Kane, Mary

Kelly, Michelle  
Kelly, Stacey  
Kerechek, William  
Kinney, Maurice  
Kinoshita, DDS, Jamie  
Kintzley, Candace Michele  
Kluth, Bev  
Kollmansberger, Lisa  
Kroger  
Kuechle, Carol  
Lago De Plata Villa HOA  
Landin, Kent  
Leet, Lois  
Lunnum, Margaret  
Machin, Thomas  
Martin, Lee Ann  
Matson, Teresa  
McClain, J. Kris  
McDermott, Keven  
Morrison, Kyle  
Morse, John  
Mullen, Elizabeth (Betsey)  
Myers, Donna  
Nel, Marita  
Nelson, Shane  
Nelson, Sylvia  
Netflix  
Nguyen, Ashley  
Notenboom, Leo  
Noyes, Margaret  
O'Hara, Katherine  
Olson, Rex & Steffini  
Olver, Liz  
Owen, James  
Pangelinan, Jeremy  
Panno, Amanda  
Paton, Heather  
Penor, Lori  
Pinkers, DVM., Diane  
Powers, Daniel & Carol  
Price, Sara  
Quackenbush, Amy  
Roedell, Carlyn Hove  
Root, Patricia  
Rouse, Danae  
Russell Investments, Seattle, WA  
Satre, Carol



Sauter, Deborah  
Scalise, James  
Schmidt, Susan  
Schuldt, Suzy  
Sebelsky, Patricia & Scott  
Shaw, Deanna  
Sherrell, Brian  
Shirron, Jason  
Shuler, Patsy  
Silvestri, Joann  
Veterinary Specialty Center of  
Seattle, Lynnwood, WA  
Skillern, Nicole  
Slayden, Greg & Hendershott,  
Tracy  
Smith, DVM, David  
Smith, Lea  
Snyder, Leeann  
Solberg, Mary  
Sparacio, Yvonne  
Stamm, Anna  
Steinmetz, Harry  
Stewart, Susan  
Stock, Laura  
Strauss, David  
Stryker Corp., Kalamazoo, MI  
Swent, Cheryl  
Swift, Jennifer  
Tegeler, Kate  
Thompson, James  
Toth, David  
Vandermay, Lisa  
Vine, Catherine  
Vogel, William (Bill)  
Vollers, Timothy  
Voris, Elissa  
Washington, Karen  
Williamson, Janice  
Winn, Patricia  
Wittfield, Andrea  
Wm, Donna  
Wolfe, Marilyn  
Wren, Beck  
Wurster, John  
Wyatt, Jennifer  
Yankis, Joan  
Zenk, Lynn & Frank

