

# 2025 WASHINGTON STATE ANIMAL RESPONSE TEAM ANNUAL REPORT






WASART
Washington State
Animal Response Team

# A Letter From the President

Dear Friends and Supporters,

When I think about WASART in 2025, the word that comes to mind is readiness. Being ready when an animal needs help doesn't happen in the moment the phone rings. It comes from the hours our volunteers spend training, maintaining equipment, improving our systems, building relationships, and doing the work behind the scenes that makes a response possible.

This year, we made several important investments in that readiness. A dedicated group of volunteers converted one of our vehicles into a light systems rescue van that is now positioned along the I-90 corridor, giving our teams quicker access to equipment for the dog rescues we frequently encounter in that area. We also formed a new Uncrewed Aircraft Systems (UAS) Committee to explore how this technology can safely and effectively support our operations.

We also implemented important updates to WASART's Incident Command System, bringing our command structure more closely in line with ICS and providing greater clarity around roles and responsibilities during a response. These changes have made us a stronger, more organized team on deployments, improving communication and helping our volunteers work together more effectively in the field.

That commitment to readiness was especially evident as 2025 came to a close and widespread flooding affected communities across Washington. WASART was placed on standby, and although we ultimately did not deploy, our volunteers were prepared to respond if needed. Our Duty Officers were also busy answering calls and providing information to members of the public. Sometimes being ready means heading into the field. Other times, it means being available, answering the phone, sharing information, and standing by until you know whether you are needed.

Of course, readiness also comes from training and experience. Throughout the year, our members continued to dedicate countless hours to building their skills, and we had opportunities to put those skills to work both here at home and farther away—including sending WASART members to assist the ASPCA with animal sheltering operations during the California wildfires. We continued to strengthen relationships with partner agencies and connect with communities across Washington, all of which makes us a stronger organization when the next call comes.

What makes me most proud, though, is the people behind all of this. WASART is a 100% volunteer organization, and none of what you will read in this report happens without people willing to give their time, energy, knowledge, and often their weekends to this mission. Whether someone is responding to a rescue, teaching a class, answering a call, cleaning gear, serving on a committee, maintaining a vehicle, or quietly taking care of one of the many tasks that keeps WASART running, every contribution matters.

I am incredibly proud of what this organization accomplished in 2025, but even more proud of the people who made it possible. To our volunteers, partners, supporters, and everyone who believes in the work we do—thank you. It is a privilege to serve alongside you, and I'm grateful for all that we continue to build together.

In Gratitude,

Lynn Snow
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.

# 2025 at a Glance

**23**
Deployments

**147**
Members

**43,790**
Miles Traveled

**8,768**
Volunteer Hours

**$369,286**
Value of Volunteer's Hours*

*Value of non-professional volunteers' hours (at WA rate of $41.70/hr. 2024 rates, most recent available. Source: independentsector.org.



# 2025 Board of Directors



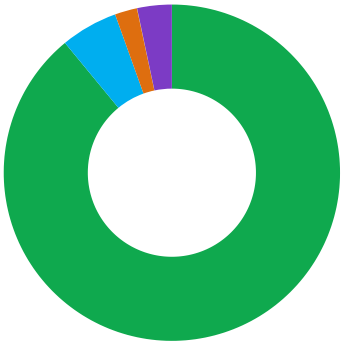

| | |
|---|---|
| Lynn Snow | **President** |
| Angela Sorkin | **Vice-President** |
| Noah Bernays | **Secretary** |
| Gretchen McCallum, JD | **Treasurer** |
| Lenore Marentette | **Training Director** |
| Michaela Eaves | **Public Information Officer** |
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| Julie Shipman | **Membership Committee Chair** |
| Greta Cook | **Supply Committee Chair** |
| Leo Notenboom | **Communications/Technology Chair** |
| Jeanette Whitmire | **Volunteer Management Committee Chair** |
| Jon Mercer | **UAS Committee Chair** |
| Diane Johnson | **Merchandise Committee Chair** |
| Gretchen McCallum, JD | **Credentials Committee Chair** |
| Greta Cook | **Sheltering Committee Chair, Interim** |

Financials

# Balance

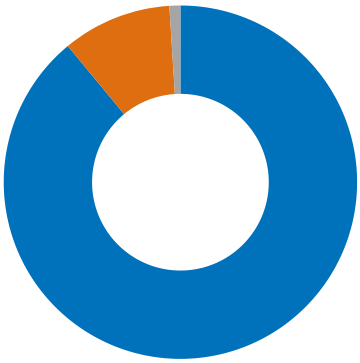
| Assets & Liabilities | 2024 | 2025 |
|---|---|---|
| Total Assets | $304,965 | $312,996 |
| Total Liabilities | $1,440 | $283 |
| **Net Assets** | $303,525 | $312,683 |

# Income



| Fundraising and Income | Amount | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| Contributions, gifts, and grants | $90,720 | 86.48% |
| Program services revenue | $5,717 | 5.45% |
| Investment income | $5,495 | 5.24% |
| Promotions & merchandise | $2,713 | 2.59% |
| **Total** | **$104,903** | **100%** |

# Expenses



| Summary of Expenses | Amount | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| Program related expenses | $88,956 | 90.1% |
| Management & general expenses | $8,636 | 8.7% |
| Fundraising expenses | $1,144 | 1.2% |
| **Total** | **$98,736** | **100%** |

Outreach

# Serving Our Communities

Emergency preparedness and education remain at the heart of WASART's mission, and in 2025 our volunteers continued to connect with communities, animal owners, and emergency management partners across Washington. Through outreach events, presentations, and hands-on training, we shared practical information about animal safety and preparedness while building relationships with the people and agencies we serve.

Throughout the year, WASART participated in a variety of outreach and educational events, including the Tacoma Horse Health Expo, the Northwest Region U.S. Pony Club Horse Management Seminar, and a Hiking with Dogs class at REI Issaquah. We also presented at the Grays Harbor Office of Emergency Management Emergency Preparedness Fair and the Pierce County Department of Emergency Management Annual Retreat. Our volunteers joined Save a Forgotten Equine (SAFE) for a joint training, providing another opportunity to share skills and strengthen partnerships within the animal community.

WASART also took outreach to the trail, setting up a Trail Magic station along the Pacific Crest Trail to support thru-hikers and their dogs. It was a fun opportunity to meet people where they were, share information about hiking safely with animals, and introduce more people to WASART and our mission.

We are grateful for the organizations and agencies that invited us to participate throughout 2025 and for the volunteers who represented WASART at each event. These opportunities help us promote preparedness, strengthen partnerships, and build connections that support our ability to respond when animals and their people need us.



# 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.




NOAH
PETZL
PETZL

Education

# Knowledge, Training, Preparedness

WASART is committed to ensuring our volunteers have the training and hands-on experience needed to respond safely and effectively to animal emergencies. In 2025, we offered two Introduction to Field Operations classes, providing members with the foundational skills needed to deploy with WASART. Additional training included Emergency Animal Sheltering, Transport Training, and our Annual Exercise, which gave members the opportunity to put their skills into practice through a realistic emergency sheltering scenario. Our ongoing mentor program also pairs newer members with experienced volunteers as they build their skills and become more involved with the organization.

Our Technical Rescue Team continued an active training schedule, meeting two to three times each month to build and maintain the specialized skills required for technical animal rescue. Trainings included mock missions, large animal handling and rigging, mud lance operations, tripod and bipod construction and use, dog first aid, and litter packaging and carries. These regular hands-on sessions give members opportunities to practice individual skills as well as bring those skills together in realistic rescues.

We also held a two-day Field Team Leader Training weekend focused on preparing members to take on leadership roles during deployments. Participants practiced team management, backcountry safety, navigation, radio communications, overnight sheltering, human and canine first aid, deployment preparedness, and other skills needed to safely lead teams in the field. Together, these classes, mentorship opportunities, and ongoing trainings help ensure WASART volunteers are prepared to respond when the call comes in.




RESCUE
EMPACT


WASART
ANIMAL
RESCUE
Black Diamond
WASART
HELPING ANIMALS & THEIR OWNERS IN EMERGENCIES


Intake &


Large Animal
LEAD

# Strengthening Partnerships

WASART is fortunate to work with skilled and dedicated organizations in search and rescue, animal response, and emergency services. In 2025, our members deployed to California to assist the ASPCA with animal sheltering operations during the Pasadena and Altadena wildfires. Here in Washington, we continued our strong partnership with the King County Search and Rescue Association, including during Rocco's rescue, and joined Kittitas County Search and Rescue for the challenging rescue of Coulee, who was trapped deep within a crevice. During Donny's rescue, we coordinated with the Oregon Humane Society's Technical Animal Rescue team, who transferred the response to WASART after their initial rescue efforts.

These are just a few examples of the cooperation that takes place throughout the year. WASART regularly coordinates with search and rescue teams, animal control, law enforcement, fire departments, emergency management agencies, veterinarians, and other organizations throughout the region. We are grateful for the trust, communication, and support of these partners and deeply value the relationships that help make our work possible.






ANIMAL RES
Emergency Rescue,
WASART
Washington State
Animal Response Team



## Rosie

On September 29th, WASART received a call for assistance to help retrieve a large-breed dog named Rosie on the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) in the Goat Rocks Wilderness. Rosie's owner had been injured while hiking and airlifted out, but Rosie could not be transported by helicopter*. She was secured at the site, and the flight crew provided us with her coordinates. Rosie was 7.5 miles from the trailhead, down a steep rock field, and a technical rescue was required.

The same afternoon of the call, our team (Team 1) deployed and staged near the trailhead, spending the night there for an early morning start.

At first light, Team 1 headed up the trail carrying rescue essentials: pet first aid supplies, ropes, and rigging gear.

Additional members—many driving 3-5 hours from the Seattle area— would be arriving in the early morning hours to join them as a Team 2, who would be assisting the operation. Team 2 would be following with the rescue litter and wheel in case Rosie needed to be carried out.

One important factor for this rescue is the setting. This stretch of the PCT is especially challenging with loose scree, unstable rock, snowfields, and weather that can shift quickly. At this time of year, that also includes a snow field. When Team 1 reached the snowfield, the map showed the trail running beneath the ice. The slick surface made it unsafe to cross. They cautiously picked their way through a field of obstacles, testing each step for stability.

The trail led to a ridge line, with scree slopes stretching in every direction. Strong winds and sharp wind chill made conditions even more difficult. Based on the coordinates from the helicopter team, Team 1 knew Rosie was nearby. Scanning the rocks, they spotted her owner's backpack—but not Rosie herself, whose coloring blended seamlessly with the terrain.

Two members of Team 1 traversed toward the backpack. The narrow, unstable trail—only 6–12 inches wide on a steep 30–55 degree slope—







required the traversers to lean into the hillside and move cautiously to avoid sliding.

Halfway down, they spotted Rosie about 150 feet below the trail, sitting on a sleeping bag, exactly where the coordinates indicated. The two team members switchbacked down the slope and cut across to her. When they were within 30 feet, Rosie let out a low growl. The rescuers paused to give Rosie time to adjust to their presence before approaching. Rosie's leash was tangled in several rocks and she looked bright and alert. She was not wearing a muzzle*. Once released, she hesitated but with steady encouragement, stood and allowed the two to guide her back uphill.

Once back at the ridge line where the ground was much more stable and safe, they gave Rosie treats and water, earning her trust and appreciation. They headed back, taking a different route back across the snowfield, descending to a sandy beach-like area near the snowmelt where they took a break to offer Rosie a chance to drink before climbing back to the trail.

Now heading back down, Team 1 reunited with Team 2, who had been ferrying the rescue litter and additional gear up the trail. Much to our relief, Rosie made the entire hike out on her own. Back at the vehicles, the team placed Rosie in the rescue truck where she fell fast asleep for the drive down the forest road. After a demanding 12 hours and 15 rugged miles Rosie and her owner were overjoyed to be reunited at the Packwood Fire Department.

The team wrapped up, debriefed, and we made our way home–tired, yet grateful to be a part of Rosie's rescue story. Bringing Rosie safely back from the backcountry and reuniting her with her person is exactly why we do this work.









## Mattie

WASART received a call for assistance with a horse named Mattie that was down in a barn's central aisle and unable to get up. Our Technical Rescue Team and equipment truck deployed to help.

Upon arriving on scene, we assessed the situation and made a plan to get Mattie back to her feet. We placed a head protector on her for her safety and covered her with a blanket to prevent additional heat loss, as the outside temperatures were in the 30 degree range.

Our plan was to position Mattie on the glide sheet, haul her outside the barn until she was underneath the tripod, and then use a rope system to raise her to a standing position. The safety concerns were primarily the cold weather, slippery compact snow in the working area outside the barn, and general barn safety and horse work safety issues.

We assembled the tripod a short distance from the barn door and set up our haul ines. Because of the frozen snow and ice, we placed wood shavings on the ground beneath the tripod to provide better traction for Mattie to stand and walk. Once the equipment was set and the team was ready, the veterinarian sedated Mattie for the move and raise.

We carefully moved Mattie onto the rescue glide and attached the Becker sling to her so we could go directly to the lift once outside. Using a haul team, we moved her from the barn to under the nearby tripod. We then attached the Becker bar to the Becker sling on Mattie and removed the glide. When everything was ready and safety checked, our haul team raised her to a standing position. When Mattie was able to fully support her own weight, we released the Becker bar and Mattie was walked back to the barn. She continued to improve both her mobility and alertness, began vocalizing quite a bit, and moved around her stall well, looking very bright and alert.

Our team packed up gear, debriefed, and then we headed home for the evening. We are glad to have been able to help Mattie and her owner on this day.









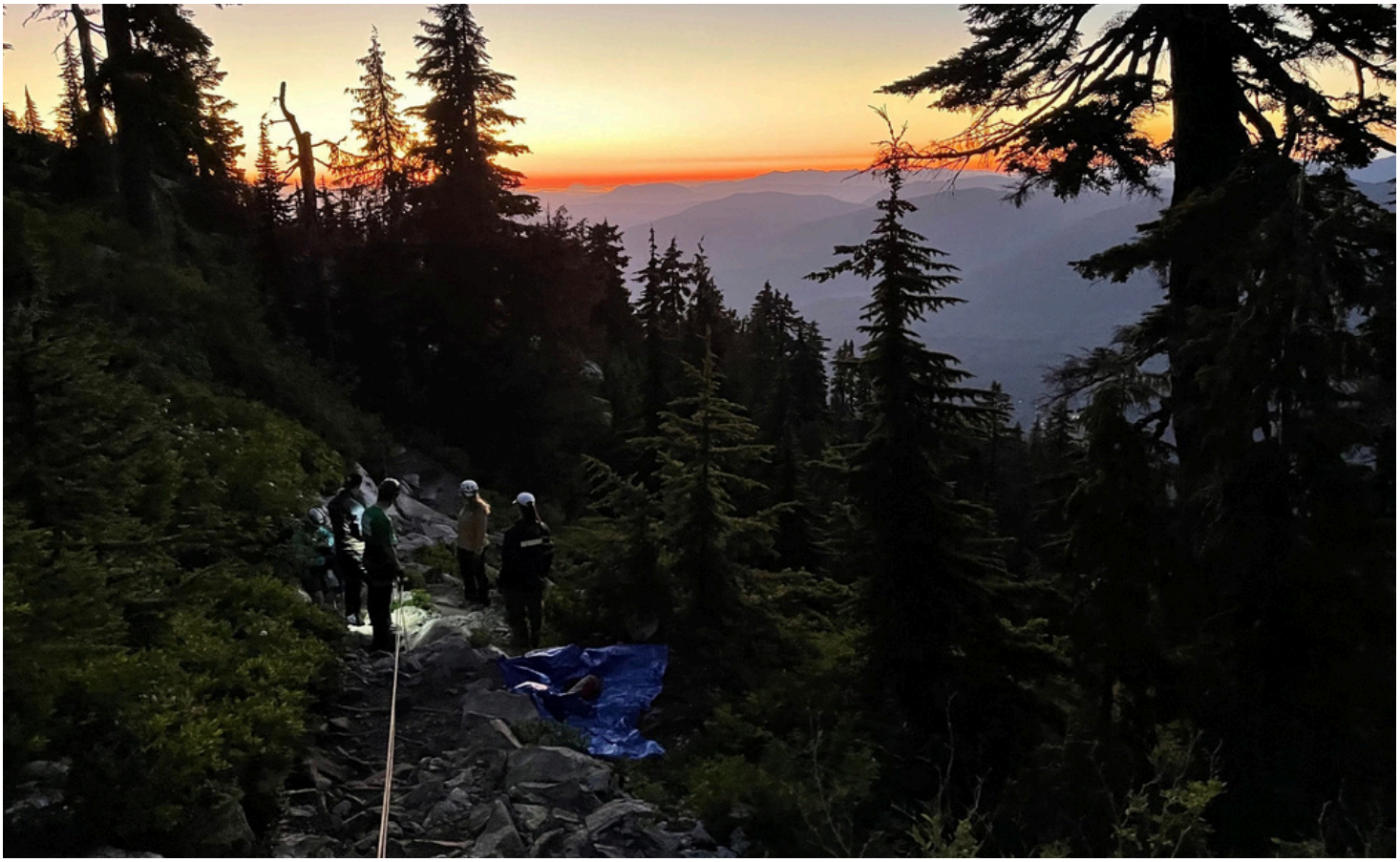
## Arlo

On July 15th, WASART received a call about Arlo, a dog who had fallen off a cliff along the Mt. Pilchuck trail. Our team responded with our equipment truck and hiked two miles up the trail carrying the rescue gear to meet Arlo's owner.

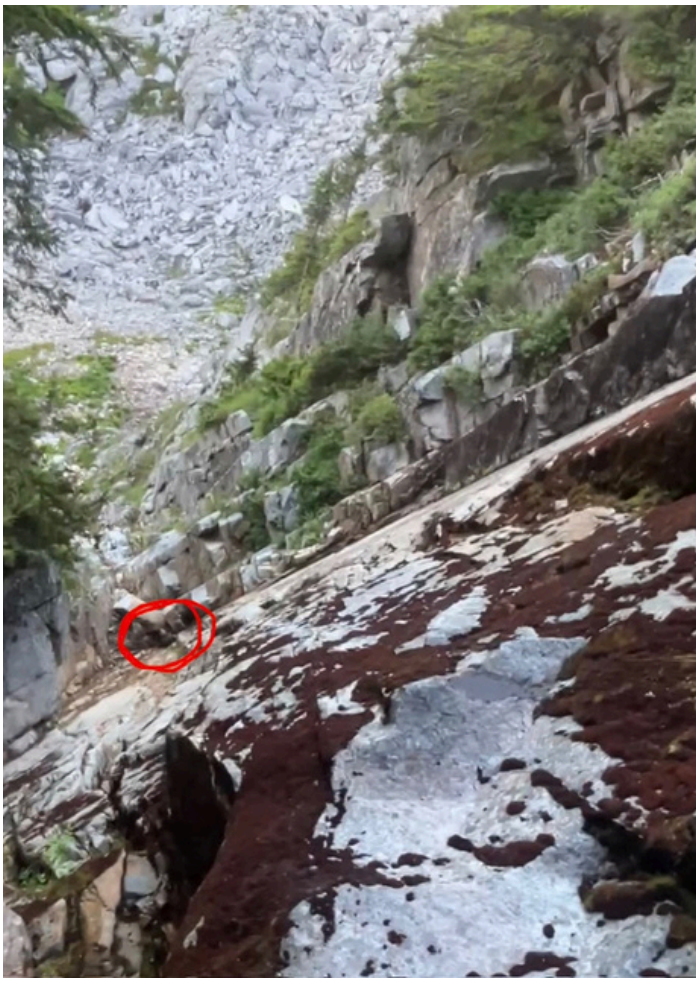
Due to the steep terrain, Arlo wasn't visible from the trail. One of our attendants rappelled down to locate Arlo and found him 140 feet below on a narrow ledge and secured him for his safety. Arlo was alert, standing, wagging his tail, with no obvious major injuries, and drinking water. The attendant gave him comfort and reassurance and stayed by his side while the rigging team built the haul system above.

As night fell, we worked by headlamp to rig a haul system. Members of Snohomish County Volunteer Search and Rescue also arrived to assist. Once everything was secured and safety-checked, we carefully hauled both the attendant and Arlo back up to the trail. Arlo was reunited with his owner, enjoyed some water and treats, and was able to walk back down on his own.

After a debrief and packing up, our team returned home in the early morning hours. We're grateful for the trust Arlo's owner placed in us and for the partnership of Snohomish County Volunteer Search and Rescue.

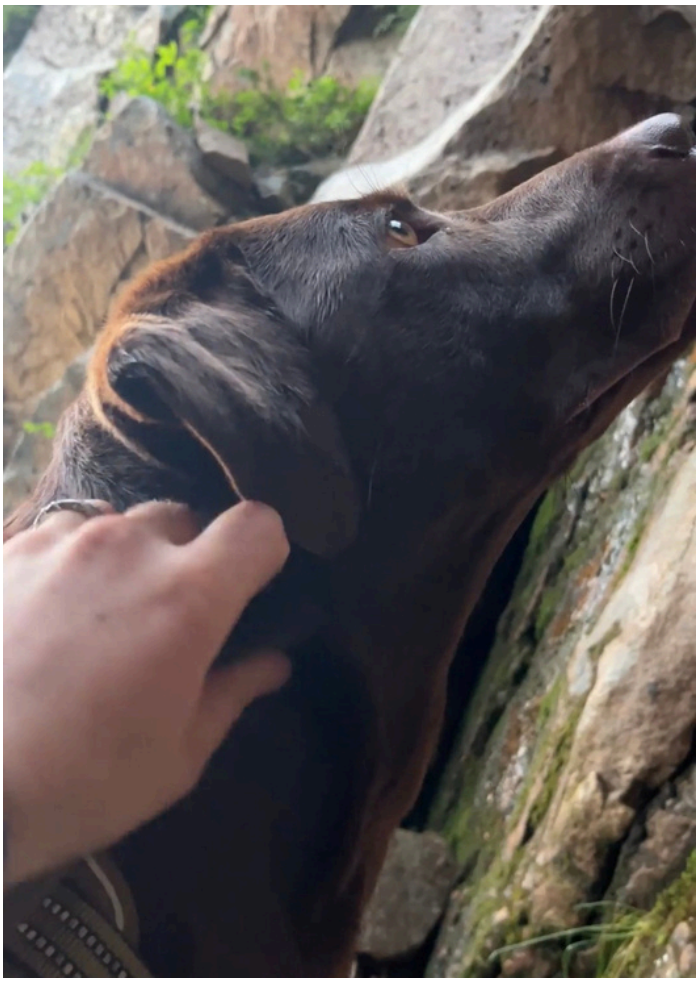












# Donors

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.

## In Honor Of

**Sherry Hansen and Tony Rome** —Anonymous (multiple)
**Roman and Rocco Senelly** — Torres, Katharine
**The Brave Responders Who Rescued My Dog, Coulee** — Brown, Sydney
**The Wienckowski, Gregory, and** Seth Families — Straka, Lucinda
**Coulee's Rescue** — Graham, Seth, and Angel
**Coulee's Rescue** — Zamzow, Erin
**Coulee's Rescue** — Morgan , Kveta
**Gerry** — McCrea, Aimee
**Theo's Rescue** — Marcotte, Jesse Missy
**Stephanie Strothers** — Strothers, Missy
**Yoshi the Fjord** — Wyatt, Jennifer

## In Memory Of

**Kate Tegeler's Dog, Elly**— Solberg, Mary
**Helen, Best Friend of Kendall Walker** — Haas, Molly

### Thoroughbred ($10,000+)

Bryn Williams, Cynthia
Jasper Family Giving
Peters, David

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

Anonymous (multiple)
Enumclaw Expo Center
Ernest C. Gray, Jr. Trust
KLeo Foundation

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

Anderson, Leanna
Auburn Police Department
Belair, Shannon
Cook, Michael
Douceur, Sherry
Frizalone, Cathie
Hansen, Karyl
Marentette, Kenneth
Meyer, Deborah
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Mullen, Elizabeth (Betsey)
Shirron, Jason

### Labrador ($500 - $999)

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Keffeler, Adrianne

*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.


TACOMA
WASAR
Washington State
Animal Response Team

## Merino ($301 - $499)

Kluth, Bev
Lollis, Kathleen
Maurer, Linda
Moore, Gwendolyn
Mulholland, Diane
Penor, Lori
Tree, Lauren
Wigley, Dorothy

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