



Auditor's Office

October 23, 2012

Julie Anderson
Pierce County Auditor

American Veterinary Medical Association
1931 North Meacham Road, Suite 100
Schaumburg, Ill 60173-4360

Lori Augino
Deputy Auditor

To Whom It May Concern:

LaTasha Smith
Assistant to the Auditor

I understand that the Washington State Animal Response Team (WASART) is in the process of applying for a grant from the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) to buy much-needed training equipment and additional rescue gear to finish fitting out our second utility trailer.

Mary Schmidtke
Fiscal Manager

The Pierce County Auditor's Office manages Pierce County Animal Control. We have six full-time Sheriff's employees (limited special commission) who patrol over 1,600 square miles. Our territory is rural, challenging, and heavily populated by horses and livestock.

Michael Rooney
Elections Manager

We've had many chances to collaborate with WASART on Emergency Management exercises, as well as real rescue events.

Mary Johnson-Hall
Elections Supervisor

Casey Kaul
Recording/Licensing
Supervisor

Most recently, WASART mobilized 100 skilled-volunteers to assist in the rescue and rehabilitation of 39 horses seized from a Graham breeding farm. We couldn't have done it without them. The horses were fractious, many of them were stallions, and there were several very large-breed draft horses. Their expert horse handling skills were critical to our success, as our Animal Control Officers were overwhelmed and some of them aren't strong horseman.

Brian Boman
Animal Control
Supervisor

In addition to the hands-on skills, WASART has been impressive with their mobilization, procedures, and volunteer coordination. Never before has our office seen so many skilled volunteers activated and deployed (with criminal background checks).

We sincerely hope that WASART's grant request will be fulfilled. I can guarantee it will be put to good use and will benefit not just our community, but the entire region.

Sincerely,

Julie Anderson
Pierce County Auditor