



## King County

### Records and Licensing Services Division

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American Veterinary Medical Foundation  
1931 North Meacham Road, Suite 100  
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It is my understanding that the Washington State Animal Rescue Team (WASART), a non-profit that serves the State of Washington with vital animal rescue services is seeking grant funds from the AVMF to purchase training equipment and initial supplies to continue improving the services they provide throughout the state. I wanted to express our support for WASART's grant request – as an essential next step in building upon their experience and expertise conducting animal rescues in our state.

As you can imagine, the rugged, steep and often wet conditions create conditions that can put horses and other animals into harm's way. Regional Animal Services of King County is one of many animal control agencies and first responders that depend on WASART's professionalism, training and know-how to rescue animals in these dangerous settings.

WASART's volunteers work hard to understand rescue techniques and conduct real world drills to refine and improve these skills. One of the more common incidents involved horses being trapped in inaccessible terrain – either due to injury, physical barriers or worsening conditions. WASART is seeking \$13,000 for an articulating full-sized horse mannequin to use in training. The so-called "Rescue Randy" unit is vital to keeping the skills of WASART's volunteers up-to-date and relevant to the needs of our communities. A common training using this "Rescue Randy" will be to simulate immobilization and evacuation of a horse from steep slopes, wells or other difficult locations.

WASART is also seeking \$5,500 in funds to finalize equipping a second rescue trailer with essential supplies, rigging, and sheltering supplies. These are critical resources to our region in a disaster – which in the Pacific Northwest is a considerable and probably likelihood. This second trailer would be pre-positioned in a location that would serve North and East King County and counties northward to the Canadian Border – a location that takes advantage of the topography and roadway network- to both reduce response times and increase the number of incidents they can respond to at a given time.

Thank you for your consideration of WASART's application for grant funds. We fully anticipate that these efforts will build on the experience, dedication and know how they currently provide – to improve their ability to carry out animal rescues in a timely, efficient and professional manner.

Sincerely,

Gene E. Mueller, DVM, MPH

Manager, Regional Animal Services of King County