

Lot 15: Fund A Need – Disaster Preparedness, Rescue & Emergency Funding

JARR is a different organization than we were prior to October 8, 2017. It was the night all hell broke loose all over Napa and Sonoma Counties and it was the beginning of weeks of chaos and unprecedented camaraderie that forever changed our community. Before the historic firestorm of 2017, JARR's animal disaster response had been focused on the care of animals outside of the Napa Valley, as we had never ourselves been in the middle of a natural disaster. Those days are over.

Now, we pay greater attention to low humidity and high winds. Red Flag warning days are not to be ignored. We are all plugged into the Nixle emergency alert system. To say summertime brings a "high alert" for wild fires in this community is an understatement.

And we know with certainty that we cannot bear witness to another fire even close to this proportion and not be as prepared as humanly possible.

We live in one of the most beautiful and philanthropic areas of the country. It is to many of you (and us), your "happy place," and it is many of you here tonight who with great concern, checked in with us during that three-week period of little sleep and constant anxiety.



Our first responders – firemen, police officers, EMT's and animal rescuers – called on every fiber of their being to carry out 20 hour days, day after day, with fears that things were just getting worse and very harsh reality that we may lose the Napa Valley we know and love with just one ember.

JARR staff did not stop working even though one staff member lost her home and most were evacuated having run from the flames themselves.

We were waiting and praying - for the next emergency call, hoping that we could save one more animal from this incredibly tragic situation. We could not bear to think that any animal was suffering; from the famous wild turkeys of Silverado Resort to the thousands

of goats, horses, sheep, cows, and even domestic pets who were unexpectedly and often desperately and unintentionally left behind by their people.

We are often called upon during disasters that happen all over the country for help. In September we provided help, relief, and intake of animals from Houston after Hurricane Harvey. Weeks later we were mired in our own crisis.

This time, we were the ones in need of help. And admittedly, we were caught by surprise. We did our best. That I know for sure. But we also know that the NEXT time, we can and will do better.

Fast forward nine months and as a community of committed animal rescuers and lovers; we have spent hundreds of hours readying ourselves for the next disaster as we now know it is not IF, it's WHEN.

We have attended trainings and workshops. We have met with rescue groups throughout the Bay Area as well as our local Napa County Office of Emergency Services. We have joined forces with rescue partners in Napa and Sonoma County, including NapaCART, Charlie's Acres, Napa County Animal Shelter; Napa Humane, Wine Country Animal Lovers, Napa Wildlife, WE CARE, Flat Broke Farm, Goatlandia, HALTER Project, Sonoma Humane Society, and others. And today, I am proud and humbled to say, we are a unified force with a plan. We have the experience and direction to align ourselves as needed – even without power, cell phones, or internet.

However, what is needed as fire season is upon us, is the massive amount of equipment and infrastructure that we have all deemed necessary to be able to carry out an effective disaster response, rescue, and recovery for the animals – of all sizes and numbers.

The list includes temporary sheltering, a mobile vet clinic, generators, feed and water troughs, water tanks, chain saws, cleaning equipment, personal protective equipment for rescue teams, several evacuation trailers, a mobile command center with radio equipment, etc. Additionally, we need to be well funded to pay for emergency medical care, supplies, and food. The list goes on.

We have learned the hard way that a crisis may last weeks and months, versus days.

So, here is where you, our amazing supporters come in. JARR is taking the lead in fundraising to get this very important emergency funding and equipment to be ready to serve Napa County, our surrounding sister counties and whoever needs our help in the next large-scale disaster rescue response and recovery situation.

Tonight is the night we ask you – WILL YOU HELP US? Will you help us lead the way for animals (and their humans) when the next disaster strikes? We cannot do it without you.

RESPONSE. RESCUE. RECOVERY...WE NEED YOUR HELP FOR THE ANIMALS!

Thank you for supporting this MOST NECESSARY Fund a Need.

With much love and gratitude,

Monica & David Stevens, Founders
Jameson Animal Rescue Ranch

