

Cascadia Search Dogs



Steve Johnson, DVM, initially became involved with Search and Rescue while working for the U.S. Forest Service in the mountains of Colorado in the mid-90s. Since that time, he has been involved in multiple SAR/Disaster response groups in Colorado, Minnesota and Washington State and worked as a wildland firefighter in Utah. He joined the local county Search and Rescue K9 team in 2013 and certified his first dog, a German Shepherd – Belgian Malinois mix named Shuksan, in wilderness air scent in January of 2016. Since 2014 he has deployed on over 40 urban, wilderness and disaster missions, including the Oso mudslide. Steve and Shuksan are currently training for an area/large source human remains detection certification.

Steve has been practicing clinical veterinary medicine for over 15 years and frequently teaches courses in K9 wilderness first responder/first aid, the most recent at the 2018 Washington Search and Rescue Conference. He serves Cascadia Search Dogs as its Vice President and Veterinary Medical Officer. When not responding to SAR missions he lives and works in Edmonds Washington with his wife, Mary, their two dogs, Shuksan and Finnegan, and their 4 cats.

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