

A.S.E.R.T.

DRONE ANIMAL RESCUE

When natural disasters strike or war erupts, do you ever wonder about the animals affected in the area or left behind? Who is willing and able to venture into weather and war-torn communities to quickly locate and rescue these animals before it's too late?

ASSERT (Animal Survival & Safety Emergency Response Team) is a non-profit organization devoted to such a monumental task. In the immediate aftermath of disasters, ASSERT is ready to rapidly deploy qualified professionals to work with communities and animal welfare organizations, reducing the need for drawn-out, expensive relief efforts.

Our rapid response, extensive animal rescue experience, and infrared drone technology enable us to locate and rescue domesticated and wild animals quickly and safely. As we partner with local organizations, our goal is to either reunite displaced pets with the families that love them or to adopt out many of the animals we rescue.



Using the drone in war torn Ukraine

ASSERT was established in September 2020 by co-founders Ryan Okrant and Douglas Thron. Ryan Okrant is the executive director who works to rescue domestic and exotic animals, as well as specializing in feline rescue. Douglas Thron is a world-known drone pilot and has extensive experience in technical cinematography and animal rescue. He is also the host of a docuseries, "Doug to the Rescue," which airs on Curiosity Stream and is currently in its second season.

ASSERT's experience is extensive having rescued animals all over the world. Recently, the ASSERT team returned from a trip to Ukraine where they rescued domestic animals from bombed-out buildings and decimated town centers. Other recent rescues were conducted after the Marshall fire in Colorado (January 2022), the Midwest and Kentucky tornados (2021), and the CZU fires in Northern California (August 2020).



To date, the ASSERT team has rescued nearly 200 domestic cats and 100 dogs. In terms of wildlife, we have rescued dozens of deer, turkeys, raccoons, skunks, foxes, hedgehogs, peacocks, doves, chickens, goats, horses, and donkeys from around the world.

In July 2022, we are planning a return trip to Ukraine to continue our mission of rescuing more animals and supporting local organization in their care. During our last trip, we discovered animals, mainly cats, in bombed-out buildings and decimated areas. In one crumbling apartment building, eight stories up, the only living creatures to survive were a mother cat and her four kittens, and they were likely saved because the mother cat was hiding and nursing her babies. Our drone technology rescued these cats, and now they will be able to be adopted out to a loving family.



The cats rescued from the building on the right

We are hoping to procure funds to cover this trip to Ukraine. Below is an estimate of the cost of the trip. We are more than willing to provide the actual costs of the trip afterwards.

Ukraine - Second Tour

Airporter RT	\$320.00
Ryan RT SJC - MIA	\$835.00
Flights RT MIA-Warsaw	\$4630.00
Luggage fees (approx)	\$1500.00
Bus RT Warsaw-Kyiv	\$240.00
Lodging for 6 weeks	\$1500.00
Animal housing for rescues	\$2000.00
Food at \$40 per diem x2	\$4080.00
Petrol for rescue van	\$1500.00
Driver and security (\$350 per day, weekends off)	\$14350.00
Total	\$29800.00

Links to our work

People magazine (Ukraine write up and video)

<https://people.com/pets/drone-pilot-rescues-pets-in-ukraine/>

Smithsonian Magazine article of koala rescues

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/search-life-kangaroo-island-180974876/>

Access Hollywood (highlights "Doug to the Rescue")

[https://vimeo.com/561348839/0dd2258f3e?](https://vimeo.com/561348839/0dd2258f3e?fbclid=IwAR0P4Inx54CA0vHfQXdzwa5ryKB_R8rPslkymSCZvPj4DPVGcU2ZkHHcycl)

[fbclid=IwAR0P4Inx54CA0vHfQXdzwa5ryKB_R8rPslkymSCZvPj4DPVGcU2ZkHHcycl](https://vimeo.com/561348839/0dd2258f3e?fbclid=IwAR0P4Inx54CA0vHfQXdzwa5ryKB_R8rPslkymSCZvPj4DPVGcU2ZkHHcycl)

