



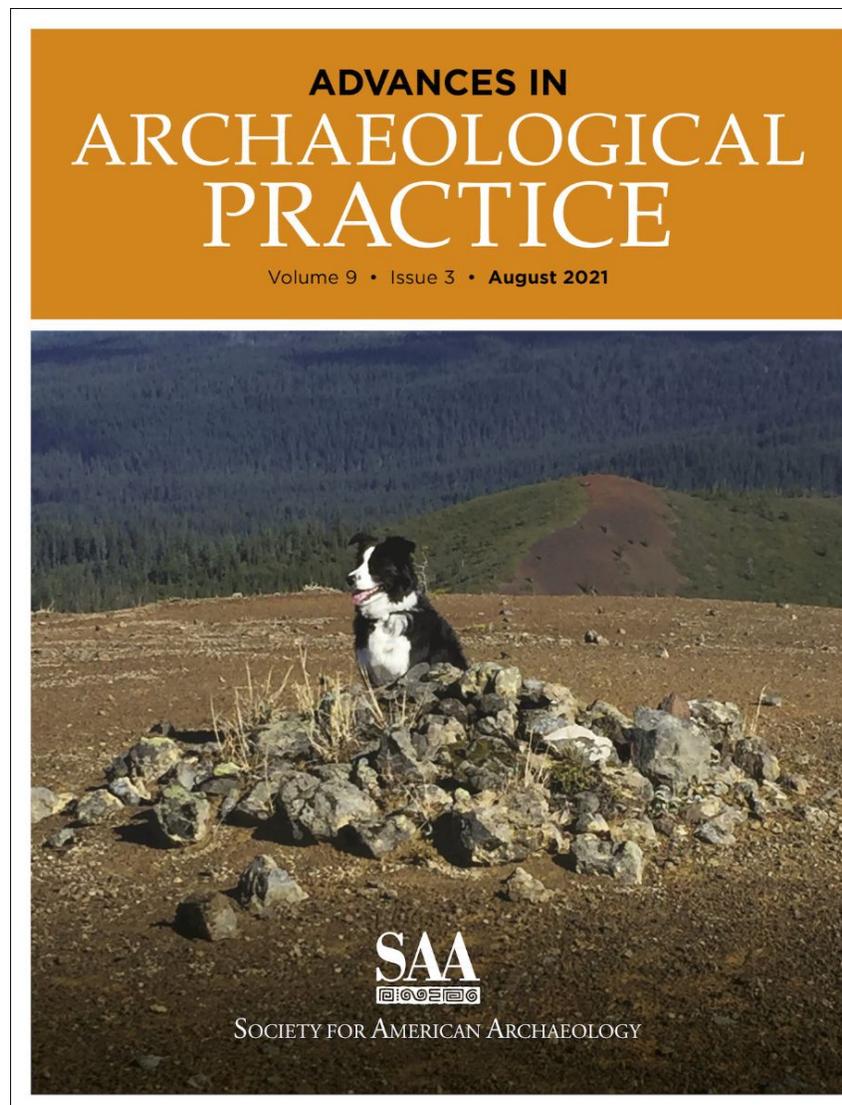
It's Never too Early to Start Imprinting Scent

Zia started her imprinting training when she was 6 weeks old. In the beginning, high value food is paired with the desired scent. As a puppy, all she had to do was put her nose on the correct scent and treats would rain from the sky. If she moved her focus to something else, the treats stopped. There is no command, no pressure, only fun, praise, toys and food. I have continued to work the same way as she grows.

Sometimes her scent target is visible; sometimes it's hidden in something. What the puppy learns is, it's the scent and not the visual that is rewarded. I usually don't

introduce historic cemeteries until I know the dog clearly understand their target scent. I have never worked a puppy this young in a cemetery. (Zia was 14 weeks old). Since our group training was at a historical cemetery I thought I would just be giving her exposure. But in a moment that I was not paying attention, she all by herself went over to a crack in the concrete, at a foot stone, and put her nose in the crack. Then I knew she understood her target scent!

~Adela~



ICF is very excited to announce our collaborative paper is now available at *Advances in Archeological Practices*, Published by Cambridge University Press on behalf of Society for American Archaeology. Please click on the link below.



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Applying Canine Detection in Support of Collaborative Archeology

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ABSTRACT

This article explores the use of specially trained canines to detect the location of human burials in nonmodern archaeological contexts. It discusses the history of the discipline, training and field methods, the importance of developing a working relationship with descendant communities, project examples, an assessment of canine detection effectiveness, and ways to select a canine detection team. The article highlights how the application of canine detection training and protocols to the archaeological record makes it possible to locate potential precontact Native American burial areas without ground disturbance. In some cases, probable burial areas located by canines can be confidentially mapped to ensure avoidance during upcoming construction projects. For a variety of reasons, many Native American communities have been wary of embracing this new method to locate ancestral burials. Today, however, canine detection is widely accepted by many tribal groups in California to locate ancestral burials that might be impacted by construction. Although additional controlled studies and rigorous field laboratory experiments are needed to understand the range of variation in efficacy fully, available results in both North America and Europe demonstrate that specially trained canines can often accurately locate human burials that are more than a thousand years old to within a few meters.

Keywords: canine detection of burials, collaborative archaeology, Indigenous burials, Native American, remote sensing

Training for Areas Containing “Negatives”

While the pictures below look like one of our training scenarios, with human food and garbage tempting the dogs, all three of the pictures below are from actual searches around homeless encampments. To prepare our dogs for this possibility, we routinely set up scenarios that include “negatives” like food scraps, animal bones and items with fresh human scent on them. We are

constantly “proofing against” items that are not our target scent. Many of us use the “three-second” rule, meaning the dogs have three seconds to check it out and then move on. They are not allowed to linger or eat anything.



Above Jett is checking out the spoiled milk. I am sure he is calculating if the three second rule applies to each piece of garbage or if he will have time to check out the rotten chicken.

With the increasing homelessness that we face in this country, we are seeing more of what these pictures represent in our search areas. While we are not concerned that our dogs can't find their target scent among homeless camps, it's more an issue of safety impacts on our dogs' health by getting into spoiled food, human waste, or being punctured by drug paraphernalia, etc. Whether working a historical project or a crime scene, our dogs must be able to work the areas in a safe manner.



Less easy to control are the situations where we are faced with not-so-friendly dogs and angry or violent people in the area. If an encampment is located within the search area, we survey the area before working our dogs. If necessary, we will avoid the area until it has been secured and is safe to work. The team's safety is primary.





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We are happy to talk with you about your project and
how our dogs might help locate human remains or burials.
Call, email, or check out our website.

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