



**We are excited to present Dana and Sophie as our newest certified team**

We do not usually set up tests in the rain... but the weather report said showers in the morning and then clear. Guess the weather was not paying attention to the weather people. We stood under the eaves of a nearby building debating, should we give it an hour to see if it stops, cancel the test, start the test and see how the conditions were, stop if needed and wait for less rain? What a mess.

It takes resources and time to set up a test. Our standards state that an in-house evaluator sets up the testing ground to our standards to ensure we are as consistent as possible, then the test is observed by an outside evaluator who has experience in detection dog work or other related expertise. It is a double blind test, meaning the people who set it up cannot be part of the evaluation or close enough during the test to be observed. We usually have two experienced in-house evaluators set up the test site. One who measures and flags boundaries and maps where sources are placed, while the other evaluator places the concealed sources.

We work very hard to ensure there are no mistakes in the set-up. The last thing we want to do is set up a test incorrectly and have to void the test because of our mistake. The teams taking the test for the first time have worked too hard to get ready. Before the test they have many sign offs that an evaluator has observed, and tasks they have to perform to even qualify to take a test.

We gave Dana the choice, every out to wait for a better day. He said he would take the test rain, and all. In record time they finished doing an incredible job. We are proud to have them as certified teams.

~ Adela ~

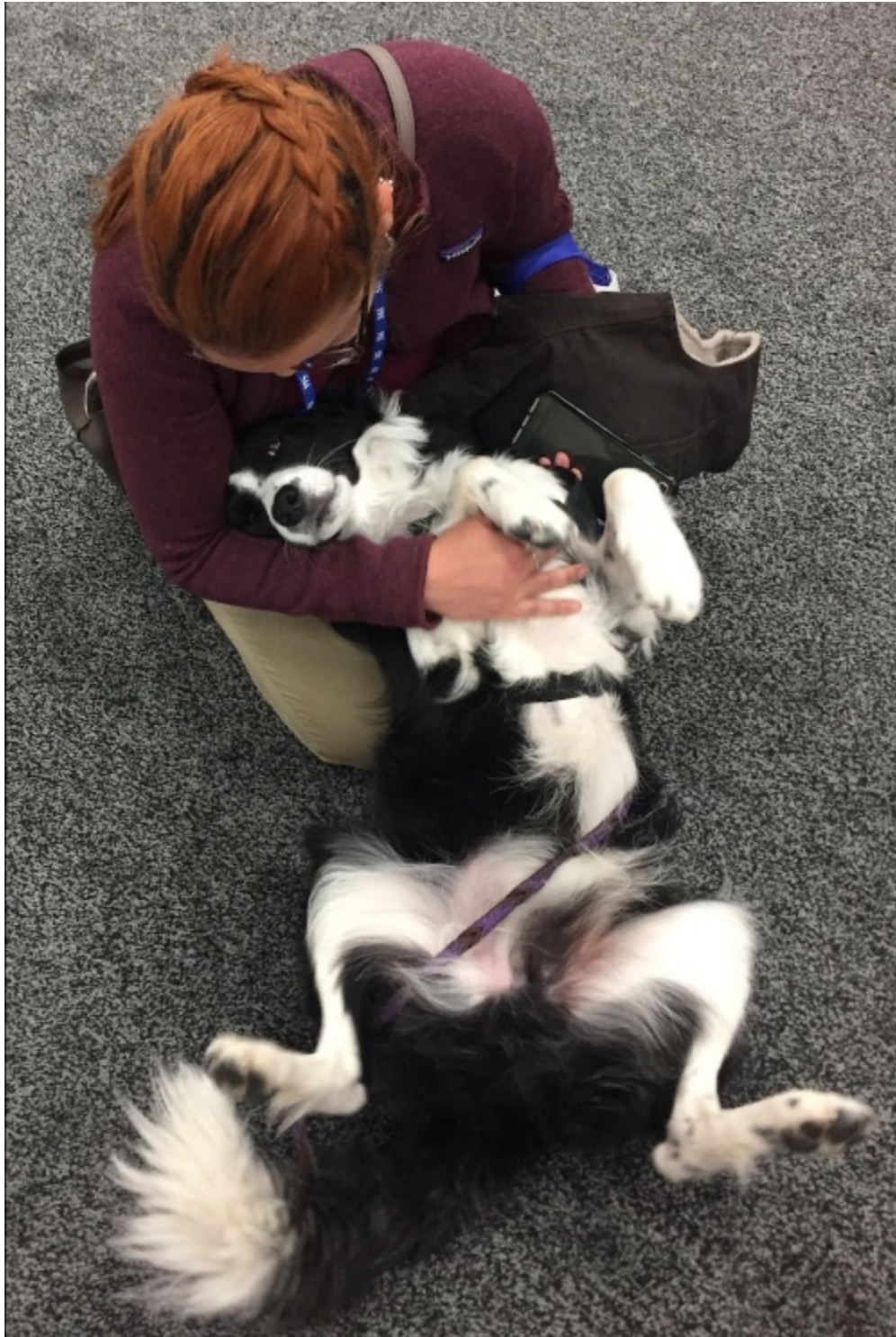


Society for American Archeology 84th Annual Meeting

This was our first year attending the SAA meeting. When we saw that it was being held in Albuquerque New Mexico I said we have to go. How can you not take advantage of seeing incredible culture and eat green chili! I hear that this was the largest conference to date with 5300 people attending. It was great seeing people we have not seen for many years as well as making many new friends.

Lynne & Piper, Adela & Jett, and Barbara & Asha pictured above, spent our days talking to people about the work we do with our dogs. Our dogs provided stress relief so we were told as many people came back several times to visit them.

~Adela~



Jett having a de-stress session with one of his fans.



Jett and Piper sharing love with friends. Not sure who benefited more.

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## Thank you Russ ..

In 1997 ICF had discovered that our dogs could find old burials. Our background prior to that was Search and Rescue and working cold cases with law enforcement. Although we been working our dogs for a number of years, we had no experience working with archaeologists or looking for historic burials, and absolutely no experience looking for prehistoric burials.

We were very fortunate to meet Russ Skowronek, Ph.D, an archaeologist who at that time was teaching at Santa Clara University in Callifornia. Russ saw a "bigger picture" and was interested in exploring the use of dogs as a unique tool to help locate old burials. Russ was responsible for our first project, working with archaeologists and a local tribe, helping to locate prehistoric burials. This was the first time our dogs had been used in this context. We learned valuable lessons, but most of all, we learned that our dogs would alert on ancient burials.

Russ joined the staff of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley several years back and we don't get to see him as much. It was a great pleasure to see him at the SAA meeting. We owe him so much for believing in possibilities and giving us a chance to learn.

~Adela~



Asha and Russ at the SAA conference

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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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