



Institute for Canine Forensics

Specializing in Locating Historic and Prehistoric Burials
A Non-Invasive Search Tool to Locate Human Remains



Even in Play Dogs Mimic, Hunt, Kill, and Group Shred.

Predators who hunt in a pack can bring down larger prey. The group participates in a group shred to help open tough hides so the pack can feed.

It is an excellent article about the cremation recovery we have been doing after the Carr wildfire in Northern California, and contains some pertinent information about dogs' sense of smell. Please take the time to click on the link below and read the article. It is really worth it.



[ANIMALS](#)

How sniffer dogs find cremated human remains after wildfires

Specially-trained dogs, one of which recently searched for Amelia Earhart's body, use their marvelous noses to find human cremains.

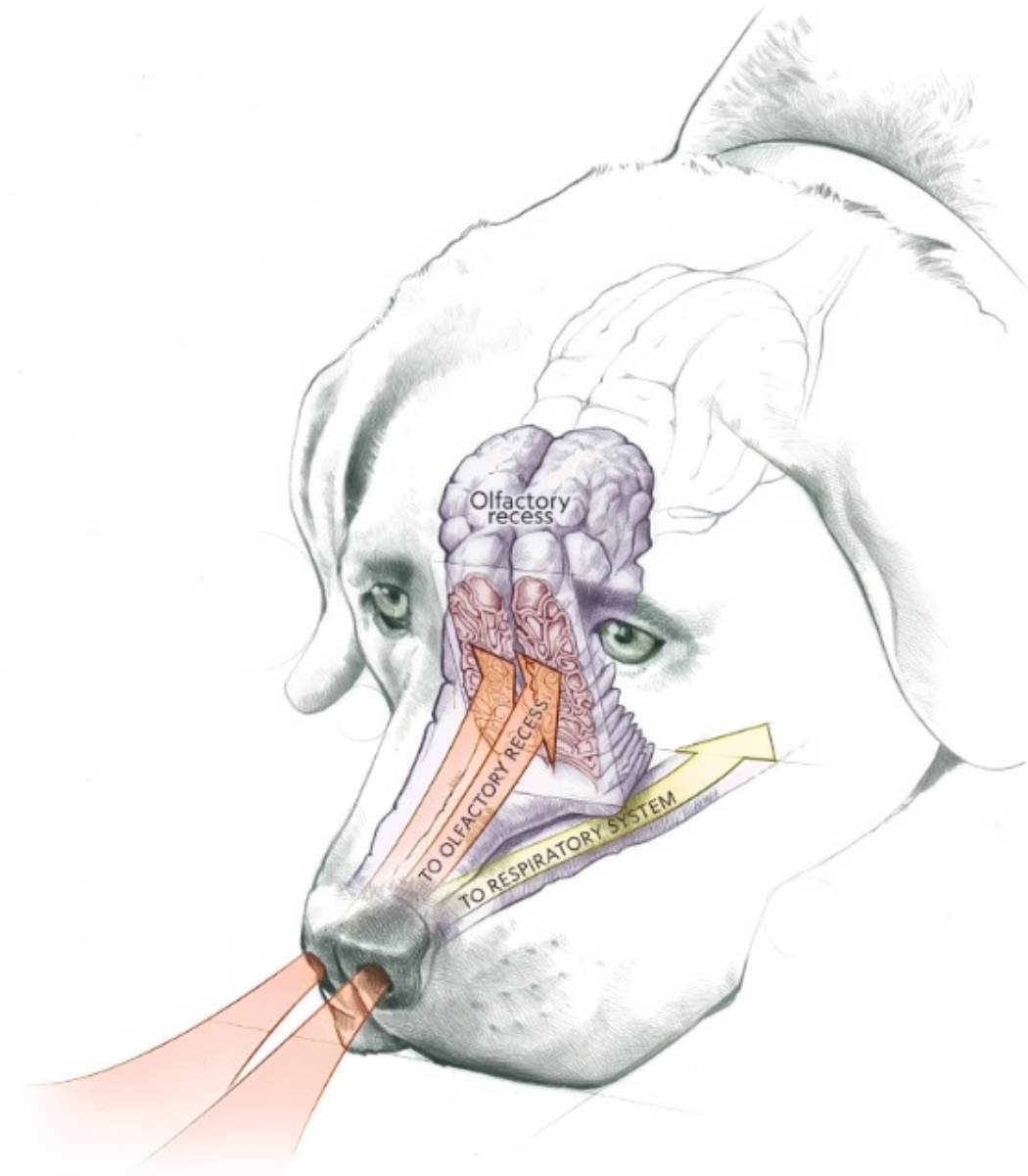
NOBODY SHOULD HAVE to lose a loved one twice. Some dogs are helping to prevent that from happening.

When [wildfires like the ones that ravaged California](#) this summer sweep into a neighborhood, there is no time to collect valuables. Homeowners flee with bare essentials. Among the precious things that must be left include cremated remains, or cremains, often stored in a receptacle kept on a shelf or mantle. But now, professionally trained detection dogs are being dispatched to recover these human ashes from the charred ruins of destroyed homes.

“These people are devastated,” says Lynne Engelbert of the [Institute for Canine Forensics](#), which uses Historical Human Remains Detection dogs to locate cremains. ([See photos of detection dogs](#) being trained to find human remains.)

For the full article, please click on the link below.

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/2018/10/sniffer-dogs-human-remains-california-wildfires-cremation-news/?cmpid=org=ngp::mc=social::src=facebook::cmp=editorial::add=fb20181030animals-snifferdogs::rid=&sf201123488=1>



How the Nose Knows

A dog's extraordinary sense of smell—up to 100,000 times more acute than a human's—relies in part on a structure called the olfactory recess (right). This labyrinth of paper-thin bones is lined with millions of scent receptors attached by neurons to the brain, where the scents are analyzed. Sniffing up to five times a second, a dog constantly surveys its surroundings and even knows through which nostril it detects a scent.

A dog's rapid sniffing creates an air flow pattern that quickly transports odor molecules to the olfactory recess, where detection occurs.

JASON TREAT, NGM STAFF. ART: BRUCE MORSER. SOURCES: OFFICE OF NAVAL RESEARCH, NAVAL RESEARCH LABORATORY; K2 SOLUTIONS; BRENT A. CRAVEN, PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY



Our Cremains Recovery Team at the Carr Fire.
Back row Michale Newland, Alex DeGeorge
Front row, Lynne Engelbert with Piper, Adela Morris with Jett

Our Cremation Recovery Team responded to people who had lost their homes in the Northern California Carr Fire. As they were fleeing, they left behind the previously cremated remains of loved ones.

Each location and story is unique and we continue to perfect our techniques to locate them. Once again we were highly successful in recovering cremains in homes where the debris had not been disturbed prior to our arrival. In only one location were we unable to collect any cremains. Debris had been removed and the ashes screened and shoveled away. The dogs definitely had scented in the location but we were unable to locate any collectable cremains.

For the first time we found two identification disks. A stainless steel identification disk is placed with the deceased person and accompanies them through the cremation process. This disk has the number that identifies the crematorium and the identification number of the deceased person. Because

stainless steel has a very high melting temperature it is undamaged during the cremation process. The tag is included in the urn along with the cremains.



Alex DeGeorgey, principal at Alta Archaeological Consultants, finds the second identification disk during search at the Carr Fire.

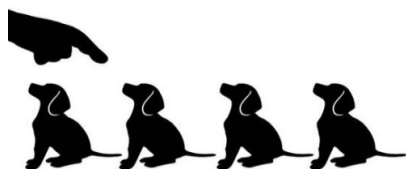


The power of recovery. This lady's husband had a specific request for the disposal of his cremains. He participated in historical reenactments and wanted his cremains to be shot out of a cannon. His family was thrilled that they could now fulfill his final request.



Both dogs alerted at the location where the cremains had been before they were screened and the area scraped down to the soil. While there was scent, there was not enough material to recover.

~Adela~



Picking a Puppy (Part 4: Eenie Meenie Minee... Mine?)

In the previous articles, I've described what I wanted in my next detection dog and how I found a breeder / litter. Next is to decide if there is one for me in this litter and, if so, select one. I have observed the puppies via the Puppy Cam and other videos the breeder, Darnell, sent me. She also provided her observations / opinions of the puppies as they developed. The idea was go meet the puppies, conduct a puppy aptitude test, and combine all the info together to try and see if one was right for me. I had a few thoughts on the puppies beforehand. Honestly I had a little *thing* going for one, but decided to reserve my decision until after I met, tested, and interacted with them in person. I had a ton of help and support, but special thanks to Puppy Tester Susanne, who flew

to Arizona to test the litter in 119 degree weather (and to keep me from doing something stupid if none of the puppies was right.)

Based on my top 10 attributes list, I decided on a series of tests described below, broken into two parts. Puppies are tested away from their littermates, in a unfamiliar room, with just the unknown tester and an observer (me) present.

Part 1 was basically Volhard PAT (<http://www.volhard.com/pages/pat.php>) with a few changes.

1) SIT QUIETLY – the tester sits on the floor facing the door. The breeder of the puppies places it in the test area facing the tester and then leaves the room. The tester remains quiet to 30 seconds or until the puppy engages.



2) SOCIAL ATTRACTION - If the puppy has not already engaged, the tester coaxes the puppy to come to him or her by encouragingly gently clapping hands and calling.

3) FOLLOWING - the tester stands up and slowly walks away encouraging the puppy to follow.



4) RESTRAINT - the tester crouches down and gently rolls the puppy on its back and holds it on its back for 30 seconds.

5) SOCIAL DOMINANCE - the tester lets the puppy stand up or sit and gently stroke it from the head down the back while tester crouches beside it.

Tester hovers an open hand over the puppy's head.

6) ELEVATION DOMINANCE - the tester cradles the puppy with both hands, supporting the puppy under its chest and gently lifts it two feet off the ground and holds it there for 30 seconds.

7) TUG (AKA SIGHT SENSITIVITY) – the tester entices play with a multi-legged toy tied to a cord by dragging it along the ground away from the puppy. If the puppy chases & bites toy, tester tugs slightly.

After ~ 10 seconds of play, the tester releases tension. Then the toy is gently removed from puppy.



8) RETRIEVE - the tester crouches beside the puppy and attracts its attention by crumpling up a piece of paper. When the puppy shows some interest, the tester throws the paper no more than four feet in front of the puppy encouraging it to retrieve the paper.

9) TOUCH SENSITIVITY - the tester locates the webbing of one the puppy's front paws and presses it lightly between his index finger and thumb. The tester gradually increases pressure while counting to ten and stops when the puppy



pulls away or shows signs of discomfort.
10) SOUND SENSITIVITY / RESILIENCE – when the puppy on the other side of the room and facing away from

the assistant, the assistant sharply clanks a large metal spoon to a loosely held metal dog dish.

11) STABILITY / RESILIENCE - an umbrella is opened about five feet from the puppy and gently placed on the ground.



Part 2 is a quick obstacle course. Breeder and others are allowed to observe.



1) UNSOLVABLE TASK – a shallow plastic bowl is placed inside a large suet basket. Valuable treats are placed in the bowl with basket open and puppy is allowed to eat some. Then, the basket is closed with remaining food inside.

2) AGILITY – a PVC ladder was elevated ~2 inches off the ground. Puppy is encouraged to step over “rungs.”

3) HRD EXPOSURE – a blanket was laid out with 3 similar sized piles on it, 2 of rocks, one of human bone. If the puppy shows no interested, the tester encourages the puppy to investigate. When the puppy “located” the bones, the tester provides treat at the source.

So, who, if anyone, was it to be? You might have noticed it's the same puppy in all the photos above. My winner was *Orange Boy*. I found him to be an inquisitive, tenacious, people-oriented, playful but "old soul" of a puppy with a non-stop tail, and zippy food and play drive. I didn't get everything on my list, though. Recall my last priority included "small." The photo below is not an optical illusion; those feet are huge!



Meet **Fionnlagh** (gaelic for *fair warrior*.) Now the real adventure beings...

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our website -

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(650) 503-4473 | info@ICFK9.org | www.ICFK9.org

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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