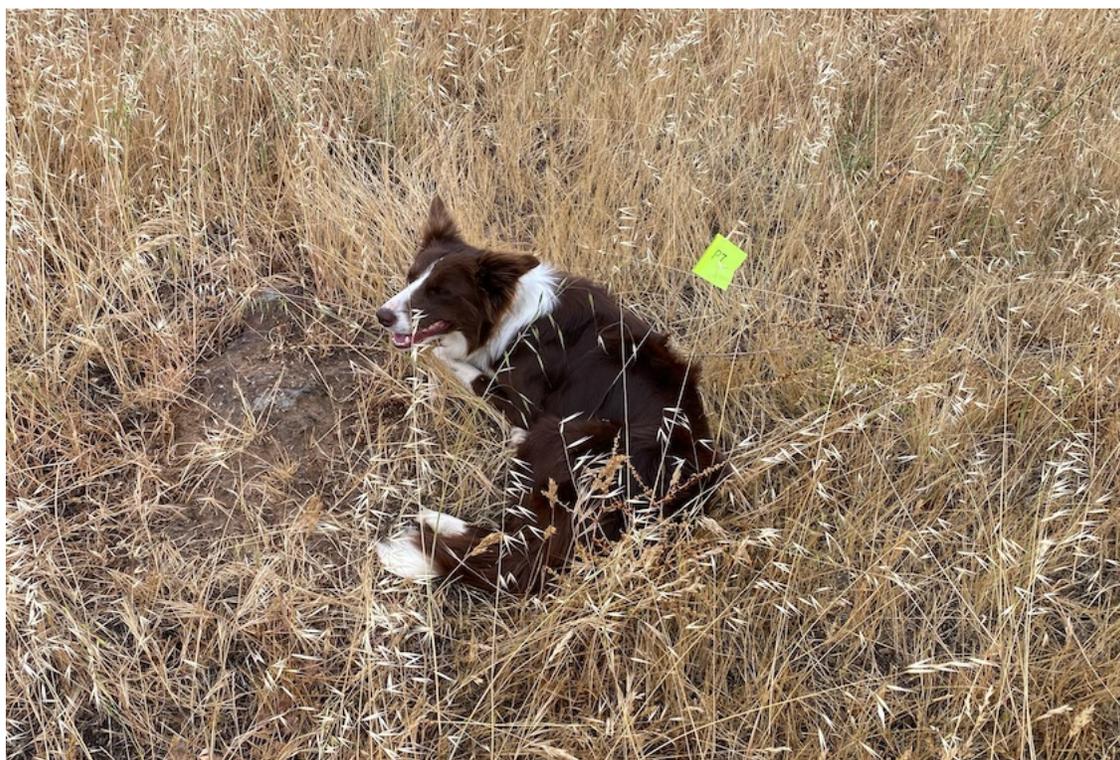


Our apologies for the newsletter being late this month. Back-to-back projects in multiple states has kept us extremely busy searching and writing reports.



Introducing our newest certified dog. Please meet Zia, a two-year old border collie handled by Adela Morris.

Field Experience and Training New Handlers

Looking for Historic and Pre-contact burials is very specialized work. We continue to develop our unique techniques based on our field work. Just when you think you have seen everything you thought possible, something new and different shows up. I am sure many of you know about getting a degree. Going to school is a good start but the real learning starts when you get out in the field ... "the real world". It's the same for training dog handlers to do this kind of work. Our certification process has field experience requirements that handlers must do before they are able to be certified. ICF also requires our handlers to work as many projects as possible before they are considered certified. They work their dogs alongside the certified handlers, but their information does not go into the report until they reach certification.

We get many requests from dog handlers around the country to take our "test" but we feel strongly that to have a certified team they must work closely under our guidance. This is hands-on training and not "read a book take a test" kind of work. Developing new teams who are not able to participate in our regular training has been a problem we have spent time trying to resolve.

In 2020, during yet another big fire season for California, we began getting requests for human cremains recovery in Oregon. We reached out to qualified handlers we knew and trusted, looking for teams we could train for cremains recovery. Lori Blackburn and Rose Smarr joined us. We were excited to find more experienced teams who could help with the cremains recovery work we have been doing after the wildfires.

Now Lori and Rose are interested in continuing our joint efforts and learn more about the historic and pre-contact work we are doing.

~Adela~



Rose working with Lynne learning what field notes are important to take.



Lori working Cagney

NOT some of our Favorite Plants





Parts of California experienced 200% over the historic average for rainfall. The rain season for 2022-23 was a wild ride for many of us. We have gotten good at water conservation and still keep that up as our drought is not over. While all this rainfall brought us beautiful wildflowers, it also brought us massive amounts of native grasses and weeds that are extremely dangerous to our dogs. This has also caused the vegetation to be taller and thicker than normal, making it difficult for searching.

While we try to schedule our projects to avoid these conditions, at times we have clients whose schedule make it necessary. We are usually prepared for searching in these adverse conditions. We carry water-based KY gel to use in the event our dog gets a foxtail up the nose. A quick squirt up the nostril will coat the barbs on the foxtail and allow the dog to sneeze it out. At times this will necessitate a trip to the veterinarian. The handlers wear 'gaters while searching to keep these grasses out of our boots and socks. The picture above is the result of a forgetful handler neglecting to bring their 'gaters ... it took Lynne a couple of hours to pull foxtails out after a recent project.



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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 us out on facebook or our website. (You can find past newsletters there, too.)

Please feel free to pass this newsletter along to anyone who might be interested.

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