



## Training at Historical Cemeteries

I totally admit I am a California sunshine girl and a wimp when it comes to cold and snow. I am in Santa Fe New Mexico on family business. Usually I come in spring or fall... certainly not winter. I have a historical cemetery I like to train my dogs at, but I have never worked it in the snow. I wanted to observe the difference when the ground was colder, I was hoping for frozen ground.

The sun came out today and it was not as cold as I hoped. The air temperature was 48 and the ground temperature was 46. Guess I will have to wait for a colder day. Can't believe I just said that.

~Adela~

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## We Continue to Search Paradise

[Camp Fire: Volunteers, dogs look for cremated remains in Paradise](#)

[| The Sacramento Bee - sacbee.com](#)

[www.sacbee.com](http://www.sacbee.com)

Volunteering archaeologists and dog handlers spent a three-day expedition searching for cremated human remains at burned-down properties in Paradise two months after the Camp Fire destroyed most ...



# Rewarding the Dogs

Several of us were at training last week preparing to return to Paradise, and a freelance journalist was taking some photos as we worked. After completing a problem where Sophie located and alerted on human cremains, I was rewarding her with play by throwing the ball for her to retrieve.

The journalist said, "It must be difficult for you to reward your dog with play in front of a client after you've just found the lost cremains of their loved one."

I thought for a few seconds and said, "It's not, actually. We've already mentioned to the client that we reward the dog with play. That's the reward that my dog works for, and that's the celebration she gets for doing the work."

"And for the client, it is a celebration. We've located and are recovering that which they want the most from the ruins of their home. With everything else they are dealing with, pet and property loss, family and friends upset, relocation, insurance claims, debris removal, and on and on, this might be the only good news they've had in weeks."

"No, it's not difficult. There might be tears in the client's eyes, but they are tears of relief and joy. They are thankful and emotional about what we have done. I'm celebrating with the dog for them, and I don't think the client has any issue with that at all."

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## Thank You for Donated Decon Equipment!

Several companies have generously donated equipment to ICF for two complete, portable decontamination lines to clean everyone up after searching in a toxic environment. Dogs, handlers, and archaeologists are exposed to all manner of toxic waste in the ruins of burned out homes and buildings, and it is critical that we decontaminate everyone at the end of the day. If we are very fortunate, we have access to a firehouse with decontamination facilities. If not, we have to be self sufficient.

We'd like to thank the following manufacturers for their equipment donations in support of our efforts to help those who lost the cremains of loved ones in the fires:

- **The Fountainhead Group** for Indian Fire Pumps to apply water in the decon process.

- **Aquaflex** for Aquatank II emergency water storage tank bags to carry bulk water onboard the truck.

- **Ultratech International** for Ultra mini foam wall containment berms for hot and cold pools to manage toxic wash effluent.

- **Pet Edge** for Master Equipment heavy duty portable grooming tables with posts and clamps so we can get the dogs up off the ground to make sure they are cleaned up thoroughly.

These companies have done a great service to support our work and help ensure the safety of our team members. Thank you all!

If you'd like to help, you can donate through our GoFundMe site at:



Because no one should lose a loved one twice...

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## Thank You for Donated Urns!

Two of our volunteer Cremains Recovery Team archaeologists Dawn and Chris saw cremains being presented in utilitarian plastic bags. They thought it would be much nicer to be able to present a decorative urn to the client. Dawn reached out to several artist who were more than willing to donate and Chris put the word out and the Sacramento Ceramic Artists responded by creating and donating a number of ceramic urns, knowing their gifts would help those who suffered from the Camp Fire. Some of the urns were mailed and some were dropped off at the Sacramento History Museum for pick up. Chris agreed to honor and deliver the urns. At the morning briefing at the beginning of the search day, each Crew Chief took a few urns into the field and offered them to contain recovered cremains. Chris and the artists say it has been rewarding for all of us to help our neighbors up north. Thank you, Dawn, Chris and the Sacramento Ceramic Artists!

Check out our past issues on  
our website -

[CLICK HERE](#)



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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.

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