



Why do dogs roll in smelly things?

Some believe it's an instinctual behavior from their wild wolf heritage that helps cover their scent for hunting. I personally think they just like the smell.

Training for the Conditions You Work in

We get many requests to work in desert environments. Our ideal conditions are cool and moist with ground temperatures below 100°F. However that is not always the case, so we have ways we can work within current conditions. Many times the project is urgent and the client can't wait for conditions to change.

- First we try to train in the environment we work in. Dogs are athletes and need to be conditioned to work in conditions similar to what they will face on projects. Hot, dry, cold, humid, etc.
- The air temperature only needs to be in the high 80's for the ground temperature to get over 100°F. The darker the ground surface the hotter it gets. We stop working the dogs when the ground temperature is 100°F or over.
- When the ground temperature climbs over 100°F we may choose to work a split shift. Working early in the morning and then returning in the late afternoon.
- In hotter conditions we work the dogs for shorter times with more breaks for them to cool.
- We use reflective vests on the dogs to help reflect the sun and keep the dogs body temperature cooler.
- We may choose to have more dogs on the project so each dog does not have to work as long in the heat and the area still gets covered.



Jett is alerting on human teeth hidden in a wash in a New Mexico desert.

Desert Training Scenario

To prepare Jett to work in a high altitude desert, I first hid sources (training aids) and then took him for an hour hike where we scrambled up a high mesa and back down. The conditions were total cloud cover with a ground temperature of 89°F, air temperature of 90°F, very dry soil and gusty winds. By the time we were back, he was hot and tired. After a drink of water I sent him to work.

My job as the handler was to observe where he picked up scent, how close to the source he had to be to pinpoint it. This kind of training teaches the handler how we can best work our dogs in similar conditions, and what the results might be. In this training scenario scent was caught in the brush and small plants because of the windy conditions. I encouraged him to detail the area, work through the scent pools until he discovered the teeth. Self discovery is where the learning happens.

~Adela~

National Service Animal Eye Exam

The ACVO/StokesRx National Service Animal Eye Exam event takes place every May <https://www.acvoeyeexam.org> . Eligible Service and Working Animals are invited to receive a free screening eye exam from a participating ophthalmologists. In 2018, 7,625 Service and working dogs took advantage of this program.

In 2017, Jett had his first eye exam at the age of 6 months. They discovered an iris nevus, a flat hyperpigmented area of the iris in his left eye. This condition, if it continues to grow, can cause blindness and the loss of the eye. Careful monitoring of the size and shape are important. If needed, laser treatment may be necessary to control any changes.

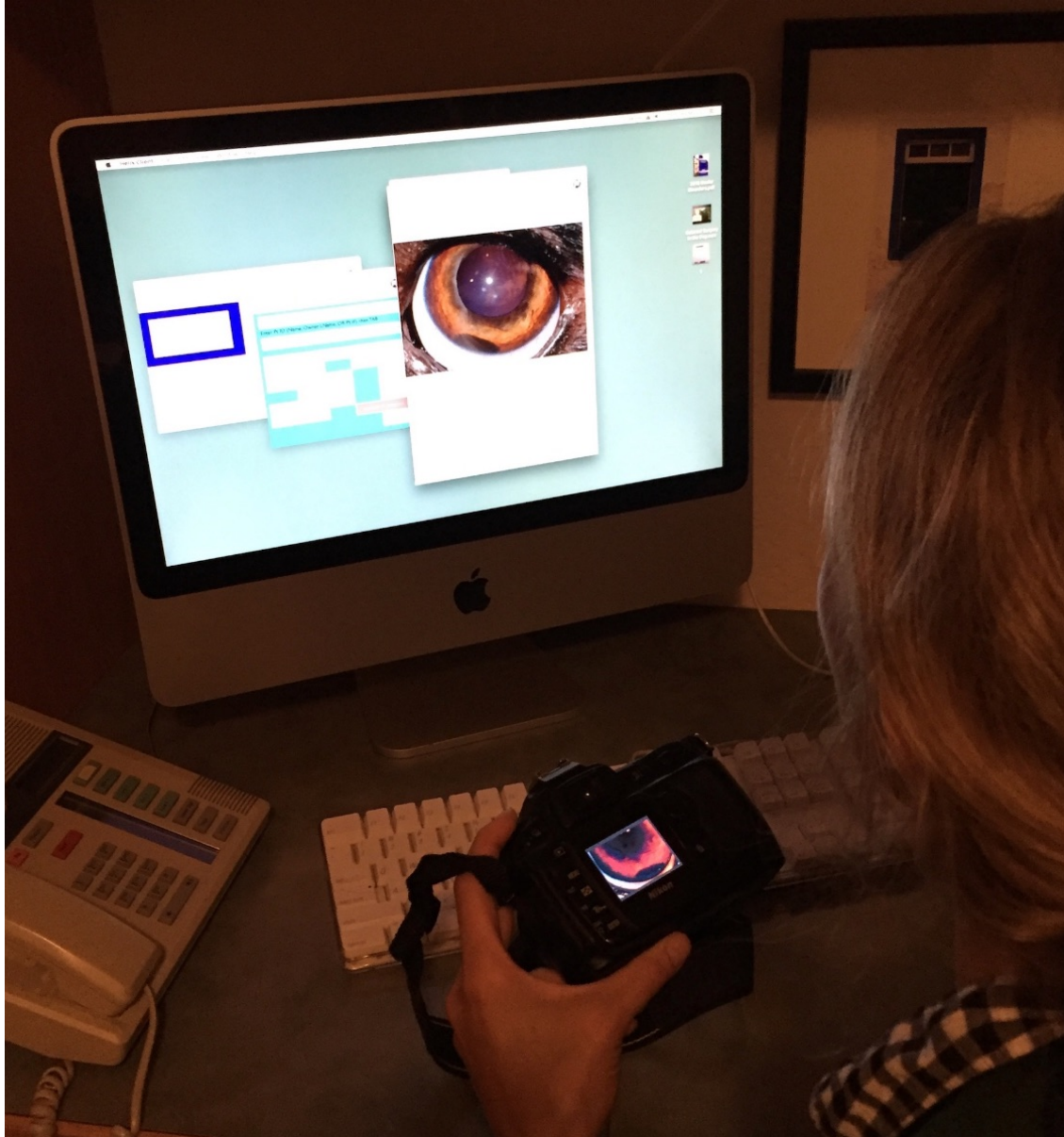
This type of condition is easily overlooked at a regular veterinary exam as special equipment is needed to examine and evaluate it. This year at Jett's exam Dr. Freeman did not see any changes and said she would like to do a re-check in nine months.

Keeping our dogs healthy is an important issue as the work they do requires them to be in top physical shape.

~Adela~



Dr. Freeman examines Jett's eyes



Dr. Freeman compares the size and shape of the spot in Jett's eye from last year.



Dr. Burling examines Sophie's eyes as handler Dana holds her still.



Kato having his eyes examined by Dr. Burling while our friend, technician Jocie Davidson, helps hold Kato still.

Check out our past issues on
our website -

[CLICK HERE](#)

**Support
Institute for Canine
Forensics.**

When you shop at smile.amazon.com,
Amazon donates.

[CLICK HERE](#)

amazonsmile

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.

*Copyright © 2019 *Institute for Canine Forensics*, All rights reserved.*

Our mailing address is:

Institute for Canine Forensics

P.O. Box 620699

Woodside, CA 94062-0699

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).



This email was sent to <<Email Address>>
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)
Institute for Canine Forensics · P.O. Box 620699 · Woodside, CA 94062 · USA

