



Nessie on top, Rhea on the left and Osara on the right

A memorial to three of our past HHRD dogs. Our constant companions, always trusting and willing to give their all. What wonderful adventures we had together!



Wildlife Encounters on Projects

Each dog has different levels of small prey drive as well as hunt drive. Hunt drive is the most important for our work as it uses the nose to "hunt" down food even if they have no visual stimulation. Small animal prey drive is about seeing

movement and being compelled to chase it. We train our dogs that chasing wildlife is not in their best interest. The rewards dogs seek are found by working with their handler finding our target scent. It comes down to obedience as the leader of our pack, when I say we are working it means you don't get to pay attention to wildlife. A quick sniff or glance is natural but to lose focus and engage in chase or become overly interested is not allowed. As a handler we learn when our dogs are hunting small game, or as we call it "crittering".

My two working dogs are very different from each other in regards to "critters". Jasper was easily called off as a puppy when he first discovered bunnies would run. From that point on he noticed other animals but he is not focused on them. Jett is another story. He will always be more of a challenge when it comes to crittering. I have to remind him occasionally while working that he needs to stop paying attention to critters and focus on his work.

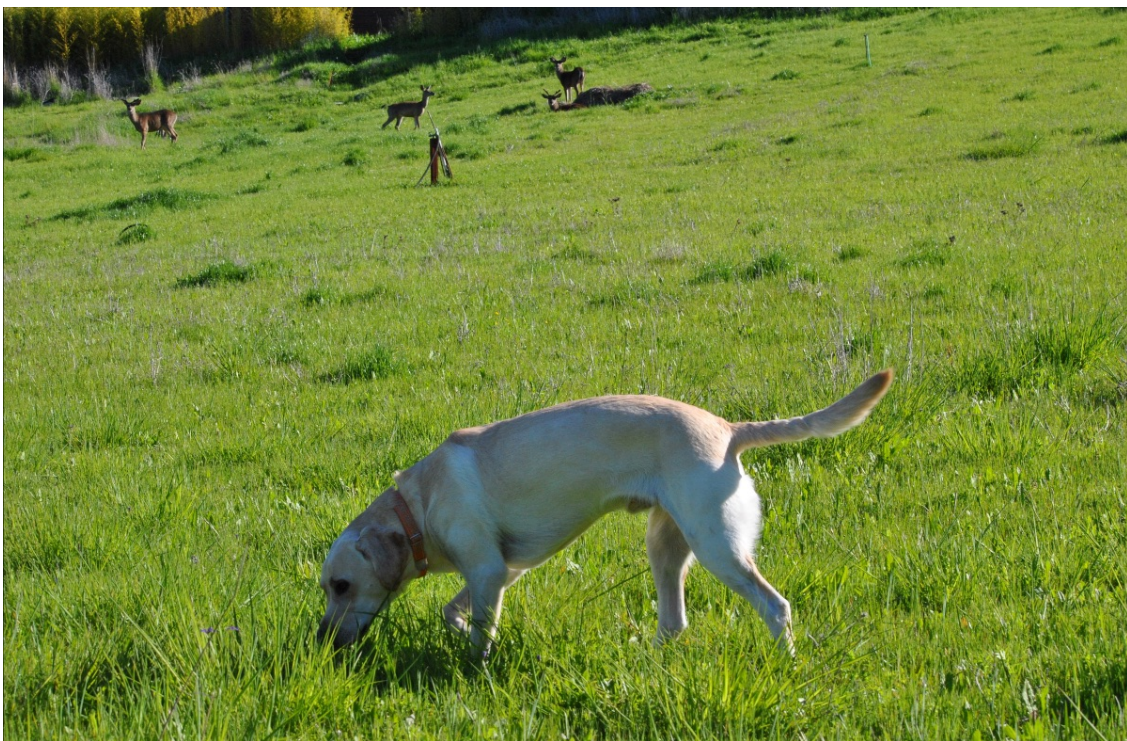
Not only is chasing wildlife not in our best interest it can be very dangerous.



I actually found this rattlesnake while on a project in the California desert. My dog ran by but did not notice the snake resting near a bush in the shade. Rattlesnakes are usually not aggressive if left alone. Some of our handlers have taken rattlesnake avoidance training with their dogs to ensure that the dogs will avoid them. When searching locations that are known for rattlesnakes we try to avoid being out in the evening, early morning and night when we cannot see the ground as this is the time they are more active.



In this picture Jett is hunting for things that will move, in this case its only grasshoppers. It usually entails a paw up, stalking and an intense focus. By recognizing the "critter look" we can remind the dog that we are working and not looking for small critters. When our dogs work human remains they do not hold their paw up, this is unique to hunting small critters.



Fionn is focused on his work and pays no attention to the deer in the field behind him.



While working in Missouri Jasper and I came along this box turtle who was crossing a dirt road. Jasper was curious and a little worried about the rock that moved. I picked the turtle up and moved him off the road to keep him safe from cars.



On the same search as the turtle I encountered a Killdeer nest. The parents tried to encourage me to follow them so I would not bother the nest. I flagged off the area around the nest and kept my dog away. This also kept others from accidentally coming across the nest. When we finished searching the area

we took our flags away and wished them good luck.

~Adela~



Above Kayle watches a strawberry crab as she takes a break while searching on Nikumaroro.



While on the Search for Amelia Earhart on Nikumaroro in June/July 2017, it was extremely important that the four dogs on the expedition did not harass the wildlife. Because the Republic of Kiribati (pronounced kiribas) is within the Phoenix Island Protected Area (PIPA), all wildlife is protected. And, because Nikumaroro is uninhabited, the wildlife has little natural fear, and thus, are very vulnerable. One harassment event could have gotten us thrown off the Island.

“Wildlife” consisted, among others, of lovely little fairy terns, blue-footed boobies, little strawberry crabs, and giant coconut crabs. We had been warned, time and time again, that the coconut crabs were extremely aggressive. They are named coconut crabs because they can climb trees and literally crush a coconut with their claws.

We found the coconut crabs to be more curious than aggressive. At one point one approached Piper, as she approached it. They continued to inch toward each other until I got too nervous and shooed the crab away.

Lynne Engelbert



Anubis

Egyptian god of graves, and embalming. Duties also included mummification and ushering souls into the afterlife. He attended the weighing of the heart against the white feather of truth to determine whether a soul would be allowed to enter the realm of the dead. Anubis is the ICF logo.



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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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