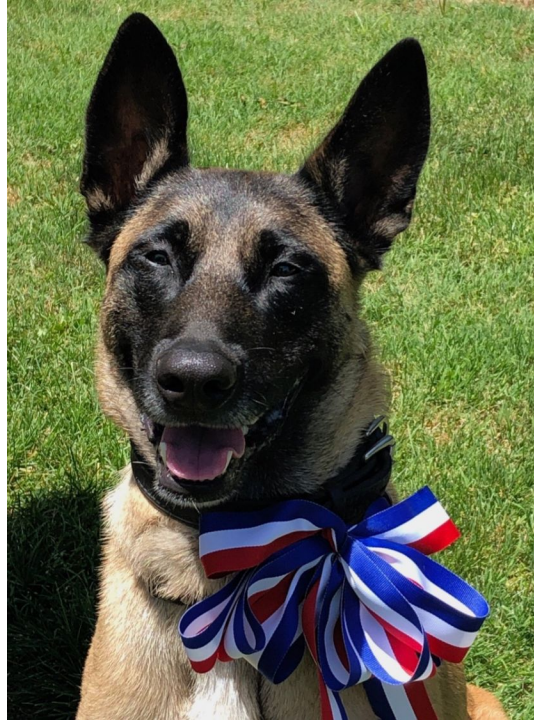






Happy 4th of July



Echo on top, Kato on the left and Annie on the right

Remember to keep your pets safe on the 4th of July. Loud noises are very scary to many animals.

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## Funerary Customs

Funerary customs are comprised of complex beliefs and practices used by cultures to remember the dead; from the funeral itself to various monuments, prayers, and rituals undertaken in their honor. These customs vary widely between cultures and between religious affiliations within cultures.



## Embalming

During the Civil War, in 1861, Dr. Thomas Holms was credited with the first embalming in the USA. Because soldiers came from all over the country they needed a way to preserve the bodies for the length of time it took to ship them home. A booming industry started and embalmers flocked to the battlefields to embalm whoever could afford it. Each embalmer had their own secret solution using from 6 to 12 lbs of arsenic. Later people realized that the arsenic was leaching out of the graves and poisoning the ground water and the environment around cemeteries. The practice of using arsenic for embalming was banned in 1910.

Several years ago we wanted to know if the dogs could detect Civil War era burials or whether the arsenic stopped the decomposition enough to make scent not as accessible to the dogs. The answer was easy: the dogs had no problem locating graves from that era. The iron cross was a common marker for soldiers who fought in the Civil War.

~Adela~

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## Return to Paradise

Since the Cremains Recovery Team completed the sixth rotation working in Paradise the end of February, we have been working on refining our recovery methods and incorporating suggestions from archaeologists, anthropologists and dog handlers into our report.

On June 11, Adela and Lynne, with Jasper, Jett and Piper, met Alex DeGeorgey, archaeologists Risa and Kevin, Dana, an ethnographer, and Gayle, a journalist from the American Archaeology Magazine, in Paradise to work one more site. We chose to make this trip to implement and try to capture additional data that we need for our reports.

Conditions were far from ideal since the ambient temperature was close to 100° in Paradise. The ground temperature on the rubble was ~125°. The dogs were unable to work more than 2 minutes at a time. They all caught scent and

alerted, but were unable to follow the scent to locate the strongest location or the largest amount. It was clear that to use the dogs to the best of their ability in conditions like this, we would need to start early before the ground temperature heats up. A possible plan for working the dogs in hot temperatures in the future would be to work them from site-to-site as quickly as possible flagging the alerts, with the archaeologists following behind, using our flags to begin the recovery process.

While our work was successful, it took a lot of sweat and perseverance on the part of the archaeologists to make the recovery. It was very evident, with the location of obvious bone chips, that we were successful in returning our client's father's cremains to him. Our latest version of the report includes data that will enable us to move forward in a more scientific manner.

We have dealt with every kind of weather you can imagine while working the Camp Fire. During the winter it was sleet, snow, rain, wind and the cold. We used umbrellas to shield our archaeologists from the rain and snow as they recovered the cremains. This time we used umbrellas to shade them from the brutal sun.

-Adela & Lynne-

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Jasper gets to wear cool looking "doggles" when he gets his therapeutic laser treatment from Dr.

## Tracking our Dogs Health

In our January 2019 newsletter I talked about Jasper and his issues with Immune-mediated Neutropenia, a rare auto immune disease involving white blood cells. Since his initial onset of the disease he has had two relapses. It takes five months of medication and several months to build him back up each time. Besides making sure he is on good food and gets plenty of exercise, I try very hard to be aware of any stress he might be under, as well as how much I work him.

One of the things I added to his regime is acupuncture and laser therapy once a month. Acupuncture helps with boosting/supporting his immune system in addition to helping with musculoskeletal issues including arthritis and some back pain. The low level laser treatments aid in reducing inflammation as well as reducing healing time.

Jasper is the best he has been in years. Even my teammates can't get over what a new dog I have. I have to say the most improvement started after I added acupuncture to his regime. Is he doing so well because of the acupuncture or all the things put together? Who knows, but I am going to continue what we are doing because he is doing great.

~Adela~



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See next month's newsletter to learn more about this blur.

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Check out our past issues on  
our website -

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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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