



Dog paws are larger in the front than the back. The front legs also carry 2/3 of the body weight. You can see in this picture the difference between the front and back feet. The front feet sink deeper in the mud and are bigger.



Castro Adobe, Rancho San Andres State Park

The Castro Adobe was built between 1848-1850 by Juan Jose Castro, son of Jose Joaquin Castro, who was an original Juan Bautista de Anza Expedition member. The original land grant was over 250,000 acres. The Castro family raised cattle, traded hides and produced tallow as well as grew wheat, corn and other produce. The ranch employed many Native American workers to help in the ranching as well as helping out in the house.

The Castro Adobe is the only remaining adobe still standing in the Monterey Bay area and a great example of a rancho hacienda. State Parks owns the one acre of land it stands on and the surrounding property is owned by the Friends of the Santa Cruz State Parks. The Friends are helping the state create a place that can serve as a library for scholars and other visitors interested in the study of the cultural heritage of early California as well as hosting school groups to experience life during that period. School groups tour the adobe and the park grounds, learn about the history, make adobe bricks, cook in the cocina (kitchen) preparing tortillas beans and cactus, traditional foods from the Rancho period.

In the process of restoring the property and creating a learning environment, the Friends, along with State Parks, have questions. Could there be burials on the property that are not documented? We partnered with the Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks and set up a field survey and "training". The goal for the park is to preserve history and make it available to the public. If there are burials they want to know so they can be protected.

On October 23, 2019, seven handlers from ICF joined Park & Friends staff to work the site. The conditions were extremely difficult. No rain had made the soil

very dry and temperatures were still hot. One of the issues we have witnessed in other historic sites is soil associated with burials can contain the scent the dogs are imprinted on. This soil can be moved to different locations and still contain scent. We observed some possible scent contamination in the adobe bricks. Our plan was to return during the winter, after some rain, and observe the dogs to see if we get the same results.

On February 12, 2020 we returned to the Castro Adobe with nine handlers and support people from our team. Our comparison of findings showed that the dogs were still interested in the same areas that we saw during our October survey. We increased our search areas to make sure we included a new ADA compliant path they will be adding, as well as the parts of the property we did not cover the first time. Our basic findings were that none of the areas they plan to impact appear to have burials and we still saw what we believe to be scent contamination in some of the adobe bricks.

Partnering with the Friends and State Parks is a great symbiotic relationship and we are grateful for the opportunity to train our new teams.

To learn more about this fascinating part of California history click on the Friends link and California State Parks link.

~Adela~



California Department of
Parks and Recreation



Standing: From left to right, Charle Castro Kieffer (a descendant of the Castro family) John Grebenkemper & Kayle (ICF), Karen Atkinson (ICF), Jessica Kusz Historic Preservation Project manager for the Friends, Barbara Pence & Asha (ICF), Bonny Hawley Executive Director of Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks
Sitting: Aurora & Roo (ICF), Lynne Engelbert with Niku & Piper(ICF), Nadene Torres (ICF), Adela Morris & Jasper (ICF)



Congratulations to our newest certified team, Aurora and Roo



Aurora, Roo and Ronda

Our certification process requires an outside evaluator when handlers take their certification test. We look for outside evaluators who are experienced dog handlers, archaeologists, anthropologists or other professional people who have not been part of the team's regular training and can be an objective observer. We were very fortunate to have Ronda Bowser visiting us and she was available to be our evaluator. She is a full time dog trainer in both tracking and human remains detection. She is the owner of Trackers Choice and K9sChoice training program.

Now the real work for Aurora and Roo starts by getting field experience on projects. Aurora is also a veterinarian who advises us on health issues for our dogs.

I am so happy to have Aurora and Roo as our newest certified team. Congratulations and welcome.

~Adela~



Types of cemeteries continued

Rural Cemetery Movement

Rural or garden style cemeteries became popular around 1830 - 1855 as churchyards became over crowded. Also a change in thinking, the garden style cemetery offered a peaceful more natural setting more like a park location for families to visit their loved ones. Picnics were not uncommon as a way to visit with family both living and dead. The new cemeteries were located outside of city centers and designed like gardens for relaxation and beauty. Artistic grave markers, flowers and nature replaced skulls and crossbones, creating a peaceful atmosphere. During this period in America we generally took care of our elders at home and the funeral was done at home in the parlor. Then family and friends would proceed in a caravan to the cemetery.



A historic image of the Woodland Cemetery in Dayton, Ohio. [COURTESY WOODLAND CEMETERY AND ARBORETUM](#)

In 2008 and 2009 we assisted the Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery Preservation Committee helping to solve some of the questions they had about their cemetery. They had found a map for the cemetery that had not previously been known and it showed burial plots. Other areas had no head stones and they wanted to know if there were burials that were unmarked. The flags in the picture below show some of the locations our dogs alerted at.

~Adela~



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

Check out our past issues on
our website -

[CLICK HERE](#)



(650) 503-4473 | info@ICFK9.org | www.ICFK9.org

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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