



## Our Dogs Have the Best Life

I want to be reincarnated as one of our search dogs. A life of adventure, travel and encouraged to smell everything. Our dogs truly have a fantastic life.

~ Adela ~

## Picking a Puppy (Part 1: First Choices)

Picking a new detection dog is harder than choosing a spouse. Selecting a human partner involves lots of trial and error: dating, discussions, seeing how your interests and lifestyles mesh, and if your friends & family get along. A lot



goes in to determining if it feels right. But what if your decision had to be made after meeting your prospective spouse just *once as a baby* (the puppy), possibly meeting your potential spouse's *parents* (the dam and sire), and getting advice from a *family friend* (the breeder)? And don't forget you are choosing that baby's career at the same time! (For those of you thinking the decision of a working dog is not as important as the decision of a spouse, let me tell you that I

often spend more time with my dog than with my husband!)

It's time for me to select my next (hopefully) detection dog and I thought I would share a bit of the journey with you all.

I chose to get a puppy, rather than an adult dog for a few reasons. First, puppies are just fun to be around. Yah, they have wickedly sharp teeth and pee on the floor, but it's almost impossible not to smile around a puppy. Next, I want to be the one to mold that puppy to an adult. (So, for better or worse, it's *my* fault.) I also like the bond that forms between us as the puppy develops. (While I love the adult dogs I've adopted, the bond is just not the same.) And last, but most important, I think a puppy's learning is like that of a young child. If you don't learn the sounds of a language as a youth, you won't ever be able to really speak that language like a native. And I want my puppy to be *fluent* in HHRD.



Choosing the breed was easy for me. I am just a Labrador Retriever person. Dogs (and spouses) should compliment their partner's personality. A highly energetic, tightly wound person should not have a dog (or a spouse) with the same traits. They would drive each other crazy and be "divorced" before long. Me, I am very goal-oriented, serious, introverted person. And though I work very hard at it, I am *not* an Olympic level dog handler. So, I need a dog who wants to work and works hard, but is something of a forgiving, easy going, extroverted, comic side-kick. For me, it's a lab.

In my next installment, I'll be prioritizing attributes and selecting a breeder & litter of my (hopefully) next HHRD labrador. Stay tuned...

# Opportunity Knocks

Sometimes the opportunity to influence the future presents itself. That is what happened recently to Adela and me. Paramedic Katie Roberts (CA-TF3) and Dr. Justin Lemeux (Stanford Emergency and CA-TF3) invited us to participate in a hands-on teaching experience, presented at Stanford University by [Envision](#), for kids looking to get into the medical field as a career. We participated in the Emergency Medical System (EMS) day which included kids experiencing the various things emergency medical personnel might encounter. The Stanford Lifelight helicopter was there, mass casualty response, trauma mannequins, intubating patients, and our dogs.

In addition to the other things I do, Piper and I are a FEMA-certified Human Remains Detection team with CA-TF3. When we deploy, we are part of an 82-member team, including a full medical contingent made up of two doctors and four paramedics, all experienced in emergency medical response. This is one of the possibilities we were dangling in front of these amazing students ... most of whom knew, at ages 16-18, exactly what they want to become. And willing to commit another 12+ years to get there.



The students were pretty surprised to come to our station and see a dog sitting on the table, tail wagging and waiting to give love and kisses to everyone. Using Piper, Jasper and Jett as our demonstration dogs, we explained that when the FEMA teams deploy, the medical contingent is not only responsible for their human teammates, but for the four-legged ones as well. The docs and medics must learn how to appropriately care for the dogs. Adela and I gave the students some of the basics of how to use the ABCs when applied to the dogs. Airway, Breathing and Circulation are pretty much the same as with humans. Capillary refill is a bit different, using the gums of the dog instead of a fingernail. How to let the handler take care of “the pointy end” for safety and the use of muzzles.

It was so much fun seeing the looks on the students' faces when they were able to find the femoral pulse on a dog ... the blank looks until their fingers



found just the right spot. And the wide eyes and exclamations of surprise when they found the surging pulses. Showing them how to find the dogs' veins for an IV, and where to place the electrodes for a doggie EKG (on the metacarpal and metatarsal pads) ... yes, you can do that, and the printout for a dog looks pretty much like that of a human.

It was a long day (9 am – 5:30 pm), interfacing with about 140 students in a dusty, hot parking lot ... totally appropriate for emergency

medicine. We left dirty, exhausted and completely exhilarated, and hoping we will get invited back next year.

Lynne Engelbert, Adela Morris, Piper, Jasper and Jett

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## High Tech and Trained Dogs Join the Hunt for Earhart

The Oceanscape Network recently sat down with Ric Gillespie, Executive Director of The International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery, for an update on their ongoing investigation of the disappearance of aviator Amelia Earhart.

During their most recent visits to Nikumaroro, an island in the South Pacific, the TIGHAR team were unsuccessful at finding wreckage from Earhart's Lockheed Electra aircraft off the reef (see Back to Nikumaroro for details). Despite this setback, Ric reported some amazing progress has been made by examining old reports and forensic records on the skeletal remains of a "castaway" found on the island in 1940.

To read the article click on the link below (the dog part is about halfway through the article).

[http://oceanscape.aquarium.org/explore/general\\_articles/high-tech-and-trained-](http://oceanscape.aquarium.org/explore/general_articles/high-tech-and-trained-)



## **Canine forensics looks for evidence of human remains in China Row**

**CANINE FORENSICS TEAM INVESTIGATES CHINESE GOLD RUSH-ERA BURIAL  
GROUND OUTSIDE HELENA**

Beyond the fences of the [Forestvale Cemetery](#), hidden in tufts of cheatgrass, sage and prickly pear, the stories of Montana's foreign pioneers decay in heavy thumbprint depressions in the ground.

As many as 200 Chinese immigrants were buried beyond the gothic arches, but the blank patch of prairie outside Forestvale wasn't their final resting place—at least it wasn't meant to be.

China Row, as it's called, could be concealing more than a hundred bodies that were meant to be exhumed and returned to their native villages on a promise and some cash.



John Grebenkemper and his 10-year-old border collie Kayle search China Row outside the gates of Forestvale Cemetery in Helena for remains. China Row was the burial ground for Chinese immigrants from the late 1800s to the mid 1900s.

(Photo: Tribune Photo/Sarah Dettmer)

On Friday, June 22, the [Montana History Foundation](#) brought a team of cadaver dogs from the [Institute for Canine Forensics](#) in California to China Row to search for evidence of human remains. If the bodies are still out there, they've been there since burials began in the 1890s and ended in the mid-1900s.

The age is no trouble for the dogs. They got to work, nose against the earth, scanning for signs of human decomposition.

Click the link below for the full article

<https://www.greatfalltribune.com/story/news/2018/07/11/canine-forensics-team-human-remains-helena-china-row/719602002/>

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**(650) 503-4473**

**[www.ICFK9.org](http://www.ICFK9.org)**

We are happy to talk to you about your project and how our dogs might help locate human remains or burials. Email or call us.

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