



Institute for Canine Forensics

ICF is a non-profit organization in Northern California for the advancement of research and education of Forensic Evidence and Human Remains Detection Dog teams.

ICF Newsletter

www.K9Forensic.org

May 2009

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On a Mission

Welcome
Some of you have received our newsletter before and many of you are new to the list. Please feel free to pass this newsletter along to others who might be interested.

I thought I would do a short introduction to the Institute for Canine Forensics (ICF) as some of you may not know who we are or how we got here.

ICF was established as a non-profit organization in 1989. The purpose and mission of the group is to help promote professionalism in the field of canine detection. We promote a teamwork approach and emphasize cooperation between other experts in the field. We provide workshops on the latest

techniques on human remains detection (HRD) training for canine handlers. ICF also has a yahoo group specifically for canine handlers all over the world who are interested in sharing and learning about HRD searching. We support education and research to improve techniques for HRD.

ICF has also developed a Historical HRD (HHRD) canine team that works with archaeologists locating historic and prehistoric burials. We have developed techniques for training, as well as a certification process.

Most of our members have come from many years working with law enforcement searching for missing person or Search and Rescue. Law enforcement human remains cases are usually crime scenes, clandestine graves or scattered disarticulated bones. When working law enforcement cases handlers must train and learn about legal issues and evidence. Our dogs are taught not to

disturb the crime scene, as this may impact a court case.

In 1995 our perspective of the dogs capabilities changed. While at a training exercise part of my search area was a cemetery from 1906. Not really knowing what to expect I helped my dog over the fence and told her to go to work. At that time we did not have experience or training to know if our dogs could really find old burial. My dog, Cholla, started alerting and showing me the graves. This started the quest to build a specialized training program for dogs that are capable of finding historic and prehistoric burials.

You can find more information on our web page about projects we have done over the years: www.K9Forensic.org

Thank you

-Adela Morris

Dog Archaeologist

Although this magazine cover (on right) was done to be humorous, it brings up some very important issues.

The use of dogs in archaeology to help locate burials is still a new concept. Canines trained to alert on specific scents have long been utilized in law enforcement, U.S. Customs, the military, and search and rescue work. Most people have heard of cadaver dogs or human remains detection dogs. These dogs are used for law enforcement cases as well as search and rescue.

The historical human remains detection (HHRD) dog is the most recent in the evolution of detection dogs. Its training and certification make the HHRD dog a unique resource for assisting in the search for historic and prehistoric graves. There are very few people who are doing only historical HRD with their dogs. ICF has contacted the few we know of and we are trying different ways to bring people with the same interest together so we can share knowledge.

Guidelines for Using Historical Dogs

Historical human remains

detection dogs are specialized tools that can be useful in many situations; however, like any tool, there is a time and place for them. Archaeologists should choose teams that have training in historic and prehistoric burials.

We recommend using dogs that are only trained for old human remains and not cross-trained for live human scent. The reasoning for this is dogs trained for live human scent work with their heads up high to catch the live scent that travels on wind currents. Scent from old burials is low lying on the surface of the ground. Historical dogs are trained from the beginning to work with their head down.

When interviewing potential resources, request a curriculum vitae of their work and experience. Actual field experience in historic and prehistoric work is important. Historical burials are very different from modern day human remains. The results you get from using dogs will greatly depend on their



experience and training.

ICF has a certification program for our dogs, but we understand there are other talented handlers in other parts of the country that are experimenting with historical burials. If you find a handler willing to train for old burials you may be able to build a relationship that will be beneficial to both of you. Archaeologists can help handlers find burial sites to train on and in return the dog will gain experience and might be helpful in future projects.

Archaeologists should expect a dog that will not disturb the search site, and will not dig or touch human remains. This is a must and we recommend you insist on it.

Photo of Ness in Prague by Ludvik Cecil
Dog Archaeologist Magazine by Robert Simpkins

Handlers should have some basic understandings of archaeological techniques so they are not interfering with the project. Handlers should be aware of Native American customs and beliefs concerning the dead.

It is important to discuss weather conditions with the team as well as soil conditions, terrain and size of search area. Typical searches worked by historical HRD dogs are: locating boundaries of poorly marked cemeteries, locating lost graves or cemeteries and Native American burials. -Adela Morris



Marquez Family Cemetery

Marquez and Reyes family descend were granted land from the original Mexican land grant in 1839, Bolsa de Santa Monica Rancho. They are trying to document the family history by locating the unmarked graves in the family cemetery.

The Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission declared the Marquez family cemetery "Historic Cultural Monument No. 685 adopted on 10-17-2000."

The cemetery today is in an affluent residential area in Santa Monica Canyon. You would never even notice it behind the adobe wall with avocado trees and mature plants if you did not know where to look.

The family estimates there might be as many as 30 unmarked graves based on records and family history. Like many historic cemeteries most of the grave markers have either decayed or been vandalized. The first burial was in 1840 with the last in 1916. There is even a story about 16 family members who are buried there that had attended a family reunion in 1906 and died the next day of botulism after eating home canned peaches.

On January 31, 2009 members of ICF met with La Senora Research Institute, (www.lasenora.org), members of the Marquez family, Brian Damiata from UCLA, as well as several archaeologists at the cemetery. The plan was for the dog teams to work the cemetery blind. We did

not want to know any family history that might give away locations of any burials or the results from the Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey Brian had done earlier that month.

Below, Joe Peyton another family descendant tells the story of his great-grand parents. Oral history passed down through the family gave him an idea where his great-grand parents were



buried even though the marker was long gone. GPR identified the 2 graves and the dogs alerted at the same location.

Family members took the opportunity to get together, some meeting for the first time at "the reunion". This time no peaches were served.

See abstract on page 5 for paper soon to be published on this project.



Ernest Marquez and Patricia Nettleship



ICF handlers: David Halverstadt & Emma, Eva Cecil & Ness, Adela Morris & Rhea & Eros, Ann Anderson & Jack, not pictured crew, Ludvik Cecil, John Grebenkemper and Mike Grossman

-Adela Morris



Santa Barbara Presidio

January, 2009

The Santa Barbara Presidio was built in 1782. Over the years many changes have been made to the buildings and defense walls. Documents list 51 burials under the chapel floor.



John and Tali search the chapel.



Jack searching the courtyard.



David Halverstadt & Emma take a break in the courtyard.

Other documents list people being buried in the outside cemetery at the Presidio, but it is unclear where the exact location is and if there are more than one cemeteries.

Go to www.sbthp.org to read more about the Santa Barbara Presidio.

Part 3: Inside, Outside, Frontside, Backside *Where was the Santa Barbara Presidio Cemetery?*

by Michael H. Imwalle, Archaeologist, SBTHP

This article has just been published. We are fortunate to have it on our web page. Go to www.k9forensic.org click on Historical Grave Detection to read it as well as other articles.

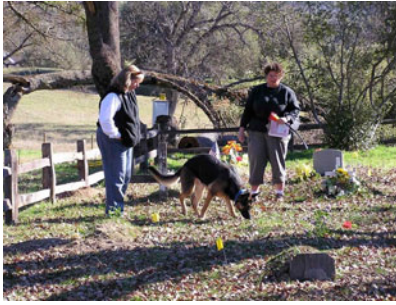


Left to right, Eva Cecil & Ness, John Grebenkemper & Tali, Adela Morris & Rhea, Lorna Pierce

Go to www.K9Forensic.org , click the ICF Video menu item and scroll down to Santa Barbara Presidio 2008 to view this video.



Ness alerts on the chapel floor.



Projects & Articles

continued

A quick look at an upcoming article about combining techniques to locate burials.

Ground-Penetrating Radar and Canine Forensic Surveys to Detect Unmarked Burials: The Marquez Historical Cemetery, Santa Monica, California

Brian N. Damiata, Dean Goodman, Adela Morris and Hans Barnard

Abstract

Ground-penetrating radar and canine forensic surveys were conducted at an historical cemetery to help locate unmarked burials. The burials date from the mid 19th to early 20th centuries and belong to members of the Marquez and Reyes families who were the recipients of the original Mexican land grant to a vast portion of present-day Santa Monica. Results of the surveys were consistent, and help to identify anomalous areas that may contain burials. At least three of the anomalies are correlated with burials based on old photographs that show grave markers that have long since

disappeared. Future work includes soil gas sampling to help identify the compounds that the Historical Human Remains Detection dogs alerted on, as part of a broader research program to assess the effectiveness and limitations of canine surveys to support archaeological investigations.



ICF joins Desert Research Institute Research Project, April, 2009

ICF joined Desert Research Institute and Mary Cablk for a research project in the Nevada desert. Our team worked sites of interest. The results of this project will take many months to collect. Each alert location will have other remote sensing techniques applied and then excavated. A paper with the findings will be published. We are grateful to have this opportunity to work the dogs under

scientific conditions and can't wait to see how it all turns out.



ICF is always interested in working with archaeologists or scientists on projects and or research that will be excavating burials or comparing different remote sensing techniques. If you have a project or an idea please contact us at info@K9Forensic.org ; lets talk!





How to Choose a New Partner

How To Select a New Puppy

Most people do not choose a new puppy that often. When it is time to get a new partner, it can be difficult to remember how to best make decisions about puppy selection.

Select a Breed

The first decision is the breed and sex. Some breeds are not suitable for search work because they don't have good scenting ability or a good work ethic. Past experience shows that a high degree of intelligence is important. Some breeds that have been successfully used include; German shepherd, Australian Shepherd, several variations of Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers and Border Collies. Since I had an earlier Border Collie, I chose to stick with that breed.

Both sexes have been used as search dogs. It is generally assumed that males take longer to mature than females. I chose a female since I wanted to get the dog through the certification process faster.

Select a Breeder

The breeder will play an important role in determining the characteristics of your new puppy. They will select the parentage, make sure the parents have adequate medical clearances and influence the puppies for the first two months of their lives. Meeting with various breeders and talking about their breeding program is important in the selection process. The parents of the new puppy determine its genetic

characteristics including; scenting ability, working drive, confidence, dominance and intelligence. Later upbringing may influence these characteristics, but the genetic background will always be an important factor.

In my case, I preferred the classic Border Collie lines used for sheep herding along the Scottish border. I also wanted a lineage that had both show and working herding dogs in the pedigree. Most people might discount having a show dog background for a working search dog, but I think it is important because it lets you know that some of the ancestors have had to perform in noisy environments with lots of humans watching them. This type of environment also happen in searches. The working background is important because you are getting a dog whose ancestors are used to working long hours in miserable conditions, another component in some searches.

Health clearances are a crucial element in any search for a new puppy. You don't want to get a puppy that will develop a hereditary disease at a young age. While some tests are breed specific, some are more general such as getting clearance for good hips and elbows (OFA certified or equivalent). Other tests are now done with DNA samples. A Border Collie should be certified clear for Collie Eye Anomaly (CEA), Choroidal Hypoplasia (CF), and Trapped Neutrophil Syndrome, (TNS) <http://bordercolliehealth.com>

You also want to find a breeder that will actively engage with the new puppies. They can play a critical role in socializing them with lots of people before they reach two months of age. They can also start their initial training. A well socialized puppy will probably have less problems adapting to the strange new environments that they will encounter once they start working as an adult dog.

Meet the Parents

I always want to meet both parents of any puppy that I am selecting. Looking at the temperament of the parents will give a good idea about the temperament of your puppy once it becomes an adult. While temperament is influenced by the experiences of the puppy, it also has a genetic component passed on by the parents.

This meeting will also give you a chance to meet the breeder and decide if the breeder meets your requirements of a good dog person. You want a breeder who is willing to work with you to help select the best puppy to meet your needs. The breeder will have spent weeks with the puppies and acquired detailed knowledge about each puppy's behavior. You will probably only get to spend a few hours meeting the puppies and won't know which ones are having a good day or a bad day.

continued on page 7

continued from page 6

Selecting a Puppy

There will finally come the day when you will meet the puppies and have to decide if any of them are right for your needs. If you've given the breeder your requirements for a new puppy, the breeder should already have some idea which puppies should work for you. However, most people want to take a more active role in selecting the puppy.

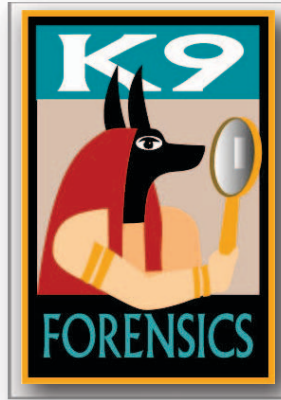
Shirley Hammond has a list of 16 tests to help select a search dog. It would probably take about 1/2 hour to run this test on each puppy. I shortened the list to six tests that focused on their reaction to a strange situation, a strange person, dominance, curiosity, sensitivity to noise, forgiveness and recovery. I wanted a puppy that was confident in a new environment with new people, would recover fast if surprised and would forgive me if I put them under stress. I also looked for a puppy that had a focused play drive while tugging on a toy, but could relax when it was being held.

The puppies ranged from mellow (for a Border collie) to an intense dominance that did not like to be restrained. All of them could probably have learned to be a good search dog. However, it is easier to train if they already have the desired characteristics. The puppy I selected was very focused while playing, had a fast recovery when startled, wasn't upset by new situations or people and would settle in your lap while being held.

-John Grebenkemper



ICF welcomes Kayle as our newest member of our dog group.



Anubis, God of Embalming and Guide to the Underworld

Anubis the Egyptian god is depicted as a jackal headed human or a black jackal with erect pointed ears. He is one of the oldest gods. He is in charge of the mummification process insuring it is done correctly and escorting the souls to the underworld. One of the most common pictures of Anubis is the scales



of justice. To the ancient Egyptians the heart was considered the seat of intelligence and emotion. To find out if the deceased was worthy to enter the underworld the heart would have to be weighted on a balance. The heart is placed on the scale during the judgement of the soul. The deceased would stand at the side while balanced the heart against a feather. Thoth, the ibis headed god of scribes would record the results of the weighing. Other gods act as witnesses to ensure a fair trial. If the heart proves not to be good it was fed to Ammit the part crocodile, hippopotamus, lion god.

The Egyptians believed Anubis would keep watch over the tombs and burials and protect them against evil doers.

What a perfect icon for our modern day Historical Human Remains Detection dogs.



Other News

Congratulations to Jan Hepper and Alice for passing the historical certification.



Congratulations to Adela Morris and Eros for passing the historical certification.



Welcome Lynne Angeloro as the new ICF secretary and BOD member.





Friends Remembered



Memorial:

Tom Pomeroy

Sadly we lost our team mate Tom in December after many years of fighting Leukemia.....We miss this gentle man and his dog Shiloh. Even though the Leukemia was taking its toll on his body, he was always willing to help with the training of other dogs. He often made us laugh with his jokes and sayings. Tom was very good at reading a dog's body language and would occasionally see something that he would pass along to the handler that would make a difference in the way the handler approached a training situation.

I used the term gentle man and that was our Tom, our teammate. This gentle exterior served Tom well, but I need to mention that Tom was a Police Officer with San Jose State University Police Department for 25 Years serving as a canine handler of two very different canines and as an investigator.

Tom's rank was Corporal at the time of his retirement. After retirement, Tom was the head of the Volunteers in Police and mentored many young officers. He still found time to train his Border Collie, Shiloh, with ICF and completed her certification in Historical Search.

ICF has received several donations in his memory and we are setting the money aside for a future project. If you wish to make a donation in his name please send it to the:

Institute for Canine Forensics
P.O. 620699 Woodside
CA 94062-0699

- Shirley Hammond



Memorial:

Tali

**Certified
HHRD**

July 15, 2000 -
October 3,
2008



Tali came to us with John Grebenkemper attached to the other end of the leash. She was a middle aged dog and John had just retired.

We imprinted Tali for historical human remains. She was curious, but then decided not to work with us until she figured out what the game plan was. For three weeks we tried every trick in the book and she would not even look at the bones.

I was preparing the "Dear John" speech, saying we like you, but your dog is not interested in working human remains. I am guessing we forgot to read her the instruction manual; she came back one day to training and had it all figured out. She then certified in six months and became one of our busy certified teams.

She was taken away from us too soon, but we don't always get a vote in how long we get to play in this world. I think the last two years of her life were the best for both Tali and John. I sure miss her spunk.

- Adela Morris



Board of Directors

(in alphabetical order)

Lynne Angeloro

Eva Cecil

Shirley Hammond

Adela Morris

Bec Peabody

Mission Statement

To promote and elevate professionalism in the use of specially trained canines for forensic evidence and human remains detection.

Our research provides needed information on canine olfactory capabilities in relation to forensic evidence investigations. We are developing advanced techniques regarding the use of canines as a forensic tool, to better assist investigative and cultural resource management agencies.

We promote the teamwork approach and emphasize cooperation between other experts and agencies in the field. We maintain a website and e-mail list for networking internationally and for the exchange of new ideas and discoveries.

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(in alphabetical order)

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