



We say Goodbye to 2023 and Welcome 2024

2023 was a great year for ICF, we worked over 30 different projects covering several states. We continue to fine-tune our techniques and learn more about our dogs' capabilities. 2024 is already up and running, promising to be another busy year. We want to thank our clients for allowing us to be part of their journey. We look forward to working with you in the future.

~Adela~



Lynne and Alyson on the left and Adela and Ronda on the right.

Office hours after working in the field all day, getting our notes organized, GPS data downloaded and teaching our two new certified handlers (Alyson and Ronda) how we put all the information together to create our client reports. When I say "new", both ladies have many years working detection dogs, they are just new handlers for ICF. We turned Lynne's hotel room into our nightly "office" during a big project in December.

Like many professions, it takes time to learn and understand the details that make up the big picture. Our search partner (our dog) is a living, intelligent being that communicates in different ways. We need to remember that the dog is our detection device. It's all about the nose.

What we call "the dance" is an unspoken language where your partner communicates in subtle ways. We observe a change in the behavior of our dog and we know it means we need to give them time to explore an area, or let them change direction even though we had a preconceived plan. It's about reading our dog, trusting them to do their job and allowing them to lead. The dance is about trust that runs both ways. As we gain experience working with our search partners, we realize that if we have taught them well, all we have to do is let them show us. Working dogs paint a picture of what they are smelling, where the area is, how far the scent extends, and how strong the scent is. It's up to the human partner to observe and interpret.

The human partner does have responsibilities beyond chef, chauffeur and report writer. It takes more than completing the dog and handler sign-off requirements, passing the test and then getting our field experience done. It takes the guidance of experienced handlers to assist new teams in learning to interpret and understand the dance. ICF takes pride in developing our new handlers. ICF was formed in 1997 and is the oldest, most experienced, organization doing solely historic and pre-contact burial detection. We developed our certification process in 2000 and continue to improve and fine tune it through the years.

The above picture shown the hands-on approach for teaching new teams. This kind of work cannot be taught by "reading the book" or passing a test. It's experience in the field, guided by experienced handlers.

~Adela~

Three of our longtime certified dogs have retired

In the last few months three of our foundation dogs have retired. Kayle, Piper and Jasper.

~Adela~



Jasper , 13 years old



Piper, 13 years old



Kayle, 15 years old



Meet Asher our newest certified dog.
Asher is owned by Adela, he is a one-year old Border Collie.





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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 us out on facebook or our website. (You can find past newsletters there, too.)

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

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