



Jazz says, "found something!"

He has a boot on to protect a foot injury. (He played too hard with the grandkids.)

2021 Year End Statistics

This year we worked on over 30 different projects, many were multiple days, most in California, but we also worked in Canada, Utah and Nevada. Several of us also responded with the Alta Heritage Foundation to cremains recovery sites after the Cache, Beckworth and Dixie fires for a total of 12 cremains recoveries.

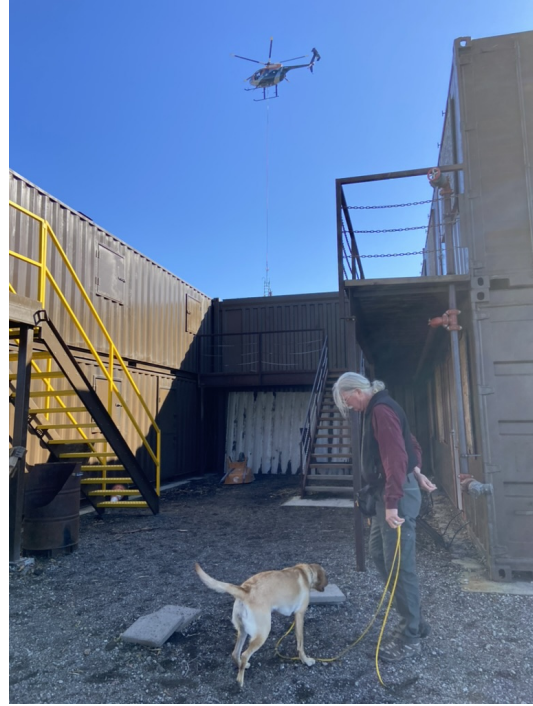
This year we saw an increase in requests to survey urban and agricultural properties, as well as construction sites.

Making Training Fun

We are always looking for new and different ideas to challenge our dogs. The pictures below show some of our trainings in the past few months.

At one of our training sites, PG&E was doing maintenance work on power lines. They were ferrying workers and supplies to the top of the power lines via helicopter. Two helicopters rotated delivering and picking up equipment and were in our training area every 15 to 20 minutes. Every time they flew overhead it was extremely noisy and windy. We took advantage of this event by exposing our new puppies, and working all of our dogs with the hovering helicopters near by. Handlers had to be calm and patient while the dog works through the stress from the noise and wind.





Top picture: Karen and Quincy search around buildings while one helicopter landed and one hovered overhead. Bottom left: Adela and Zia Right bottom: Joseph and Clío Puppies practice working while the helicopter is overheard

We like to keep training fun, challenging, and unexpected to both the handler and the dog. Working in dark buildings with life-sized dummies can create confusion, and sometimes a scare when you run into one unexpectedly. The dogs recognize the "dummies" as having human features, but with no scent. That can be confusing, so they check them out.





Top picture: Annie Bottom left: Cedar Bottom right: Clío and Joseph

Dogs have to learn how to locate human remains in and around water. Handlers also have to learn how to read when the dogs have scent in water. One very characteristic behavior we see when dogs work scent in water is they taste the water. To an untrained eye you might think they were drinking or just licking the water, but they are actually tasting the scent coming off the water. By training we learn what this looks like in a real life scenario.



Left: Jasper working a training problem with bones in and near water. Right: Jasper working a project site to help locate prehistoric bones in and near water.

Our young dogs have many sign offs they must complete before they take their certification test. One of the categories we test them for is soundness and temperament. The picture below is of Zia and a "stranger". Sheila, who occasionally comes to train with us, volunteered to be the stranger as she had never met Zia. The sign-off is *"a stranger moves the dog at least 50 ft. while the handler is not in sight"*. The dog must not show any aggression or excessive fear. I think Zia was ready to go home with Shiela.



We had a visitor, Suzanne Eshult from Washington, who wanted to work with us and learn about locating graves. It was a great pleasure to work with her and her dog Kili.



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



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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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