

What Dog Handlers Do on Their Vacations



2009 Rhea alerting on a Pioneer burial.



2024 Bryn alerts at the same location.

In 2009, John G. and I worked with the Oregon - California Trails Association (OCTA) checking along the Carson River around Hope Valley in the California Sierras looking at locations that were reported to have pioneer burials. OCTA maintains trails and adds historical information to help preserve the sites that are still remaining. This site was suspected to contain a burial. Even though it was 15 years ago, I clearly remember Rhea searching a large field, catching scent, making a beeline to a pile of rocks and alerting. Alyson has been on vacation around the Tahoe area and we talked about areas she could search. I gave her the general area of this burial. She reported back to me with a picture of Bryn alerting at the same location. The weather conditions were greatly different and they each picked a slightly different place to show that they had scent.

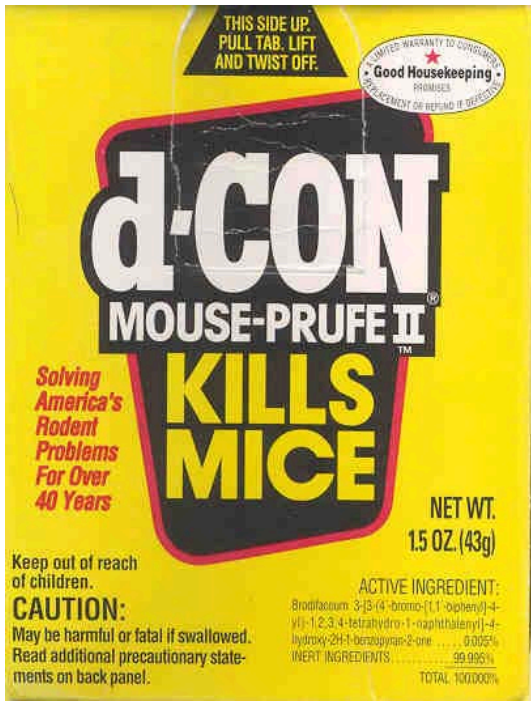
~Adela~

Lori and Cagney, our Newest Certified Team



We are very excited to add Lori to our team. She is no stranger to working dogs and brings 12+ years of experience, including 3 certified dogs before Cagney. She also serves as one of our cartographers and field coordinators. Having spent 31 years working for the Forest Service, she also brings those skills and experiences to our team.

Hazards Come in Many Sizes and Types





All these hazards were found while working our dogs. Our job as handlers is to always be watching for potential problems. Hazards range from annoying to something that could kill our dogs. One of my personal nightmares is disturbing a ground-dwelling yellow jacket nest. They just don't forgive very well. The snare (second row, left) was found on a trail. The sides were thick with grasses so the only way to get by was to take the trail, the animal would be forced to go through the unseen snare. On the top row, right, was a mass of biting ants. Burrs and sticky little "hitch-hikers" are always a nuisance. We have talked about foxtails before and they remain at the top of the list of hazards to our dogs. We are always happy when the rain starts causing the foxtails to become less of a problem.

We always appreciate it when our clients let us know of any hazards they have encountered at the project site, that way we can avoid them or take actions to protect the dog.

~Adela~



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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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