



SAR Dog News

December 2014 Published by the National Search Dog Alliance Vol. 8, No. 12

The Voice of K-9 Search and Rescue @ n-sda.org

Founding members: K-9 Thor, Eileen M. Nobles, Susan Bulanda, K-9 Roo, Leslie Godchaux, Brian R. Hendrickson, Continental Kennel Club, Inc., K-9 River, K-9 Persha, Jan Thompson, K-9 Cali, Peggy Ann Buchman, K-9 Geist

CONTENTS

Article	page
2015 BOD Meeting Dates	1
Regional Testing	1
Ebola and Dogs Redux	1
Cost of Bentley's Care	4
Loss to SAR	5
Reaction to Michigan Search	5
Computer Hazards	7
Holiday Hazards	7
Kibbles and Bits	9
Trivia	10
President's Report	12
Open NSDA Positions	12
Last Howl	13
Training & Seminars	14

2015 BOARD MEETING DATES

January 8
 February 5
 March 5
 April 9
 May 7
 June 4

Contact Secretary, Julie Gibson (Jgibson@n-sda.org) for the call in number for the meetings.

REGIONAL TESTING

NSDA wants to come to you!! But we will need your help. Our goal this year is to certify 100 dogs to NSDA standards.

Sometimes it is hard, because of location, to get to a testing so we want to come to you. Are you or your team willing to host a regional testing? Do you know of a place, Boy or Girl Scout camp, church camp, YMCA camp, campground, park or facility that would be a great place to hold a certification? Are you or your team willing to work on local arrangements to host this event? We need you!

So look at your 2015 calendar and pick a time and place, then email me at davefe@cableone.net. Let us come to you. Rena Ferguson – NSDA Testing Chair



EBOLA & DOGS REDUX

By Dr. Deborah Zoran
with Sue Wolff

Editor's Note: Last month's article about Bentley, the King Charles spaniel quarantined in Texas, solicited an e-mail from Mary Lehman pointing out incorrect information. She said in her correspondence, "As a close friend of the two Texas A&M veterinarians that cared for Bentley, I was able to hear, first hand from them, their account of the quarantine period." Mary was most helpful in putting me in contact with Dr. Deb Zoran, one of the two veterinarians who treated



Bucky says:
Wishing you
wet noses
and a Happy
Holiday.

Bentley. I contacted Dr. Zoran via e-mail with questions regarding the dog's treatment. Following are my questions in bold with her answers following.

How was Bentley retrieved from the nurse's apartment?

We (TAMU VET) were not involved at this stage, but the City of Dallas and Dallas Animal Services was involved in the process as well as the hazmat team that was there to clean Ms. Pham's apartment after she left on Saturday and went to the hospital. The hazmat team transferred him from her apartment to the quarantine site.

Where was he taken?

The City of Dallas contacted several state agencies and the College of Veterinary Medicine at Texas A&M about moving him to a facility in the state - but there are no clinical facilities that can accept infectious disease (quarantine level) animals for treatment (only BSL 4 research facilities - these are facilities that, once you enter as an animal, you cannot leave) so they decided to take him to a secure facility owned by the City that would have minimal access and be secure - and then to bring in folks to care for him. The facility was a decommissioned airbase (Hensley Field) in Grand Prairie TX. There was an empty house (the commandant's house) on the base that was selected. The city had hazmat folks put down plastic tarps over the floors and up the walls, so that it would be easy to clean, and he was moved there on Monday, October 13, 2014.

Was he kept in a sterile environment?

No. The room he was in was previously the kitchen - he was kenneled during the majority of time he was there but allowed out of his kennel 3 times a day to eliminate (in the same room) and get a small amount of exercise. He was not allowed to go outside that room during his quarantine. The room was very clean and, as I said, covered with plastic tarp to assist clean up but was not sterile.

Who treated/cared for him: DVM(s), vet tech(s), volunteers?

The first person to care for him was Dr. Tammy Beckham from Texas A&M - she is an international expert on infectious diseases of animals and had previously done research on Ebola in Monkeys. She offered to provide care for 2 days to allow the City and State time to figure out who was going to be responsible for his care. On Wednesday, Oct 15, the TAMU VET (Veterinary Emergency Team) was requested to deploy to provide care for Bentley (and for any other dogs/cats) that may eventually need to be quarantined as a result of the event. At that time, there were still over 60 people under home quarantine and an unknown number of potential animals involved. Due to the intensity of the response and concern for responder safety, two veterinarians from the TAMU VET (Dr. Wesley Bissett and Dr. Deb Zoran) deployed to provide care for Bentley. No technicians or other volunteers were included in the response to keep the number of individuals working with Bentley (or any other dogs) to the smallest number necessary to do the job. At this point, we did not know whether or not Bentley was exposed, we knew he was apparently healthy, but we also knew no one knew whether or not dogs could get sick from Ebola (no previous papers had ever reported dogs having clinical signs of Ebola when exposed). In addition, we knew that dogs could get antibodies from exposure to the virus (meaning that their body's immune system responded to it by building immune cells) but no know knew (because it had not been studied) whether or not that dogs could shed virus. So since we could not be sure that Bentley was not a mortal danger to us or other people, he was quarantined for the same time that humans exposed are quarantined, and while we were caring for him, we treated every contact with him as if we could be exposed if we did not treat this with the utmost respect. In other words, even though we had no evidence that he was ill or that he was even exposed, we had to treat him as if he was exposed and as if he may be shedding. The only other alternative was to treat him as Spain did - which was not to deal with the situation at all and euthanize the dog belonging to the nurse there. That was not an acceptable approach from our perspective and fortunately the other members of the City and State agencies involved agreed.



The team traveled up to the facility with one of our response trailers (a 38' medical platform with a large workspace) - this trailer provided a staging area for donning the personal protective equipment that was worn (PPE), as well as a work space for the veterinarians to work during the time they were not taking care of Bentley, and also provided a potential space for sleeping (although this was never used, we had deployed with the thought that we may have to stay on base the entire time. In addition, two TEEEX hazmat instructors were deployed to support the team for the first four days to help develop the protocol and assure that the procedures that two veterinarians were performing and their donning and doffing processes were being done safely and effectively. Dr. Zoran was primarily responsible for care of Bentley in the "hot" zone (his room) and Dr. Bissett was primarily responsible to watch to be sure Dr. Zoran did not need assistance or have any PPE problems, and was also responsible for cleaning the warm zone (removing waste, replenishing the Clorox dipping vats, and the zircon spray, etc). The entire process worked extremely well because by working in pairs, we were able to help assure each other's safety, assist each other with the donning and doffing process, and help each other attend to Bentley in an relatively austere environment.

What kind of protective gear did they wear?

Because Ebola is transmitted primarily via blood, urine, feces and other secretions (saliva, tears, etc) we needed to wear PPE that prevented exposure to these secretions and particularly exposure of any of these fluids to eyes, nose, mouth or an open cut/wound - those are the most effective entry points. Thus, for maximum safety, we decided to wear Class C PPE (full chem suits, double gloves, chem gloves on the outer layer, nitrile exam gloves on the inner layer, chem boots, and respiratory protection in the form of a PAPR - (purified air particulate respirator). We have been training for the past two years for chemical and radiological type disasters and this requires the use of PPE - so while an infectious disease like Ebola is different, the donning process, working in PPE and doffing PPE properly was not new to the team or to Dr's Bissett and Zoran.



What were the protocols for handling the dog?

For Bentley, the process was extremely easy because he was very well trained and tractable (he was crate trained and happy to stay in his crate for the many hours of the day that he was required to be in it). He was also very well mannered and easy to work with - in fact he was eager to please and easy to train. We had brought metabolism cages with us - in the event we had a canine or feline patient that could not be safely removed from their cage for care, but Bentley was so easy to work with, so tractable, and so responsive to commands that we were able to allow him out of his kennel to exercise, eliminate, and get some brief interaction with the person cleaning and feeding him three times a day (Dr. Zoran). This entire event would have been much more challenging if Bentley had not been a model patient.

Basically, this is how our days went: Dr. Bissett and Dr. Zoran suited up each morning at approximately 7 am, entered the house to tend to Bentley (feeding, clean up, exercise, etc) and then after carefully decontaminating ourselves and removing the PPE - we returned to the trailer to work (we both tried to maintain our collective teaching and other University demands from a distance - Dr. Bissett lectured 3-4 different mornings to classes via web conference). Each morning there was a conference call (typically an hour) among all of the state agencies, the CDC, the city team members and TAMU VET to report on Bentley and discuss the issues. We re-suited and re-entered to take care of Bentley again at 12:30 - 1 pm, and then again at 7 pm.

Did he have a special diet?

We were prepared to feed him a special diet if he needed on (we brought them with us). But, because I was extremely concerned about not creating GI distress by changing his diet or feeding him new and different treats - we were very careful to measure the amount of food he was fed and to keep it consistent. He was fed only the diet that his owner's Mom said he ate when at her house. (Ms. Pham was in the hospital herself, so all contact about Bentley was through information from Ms. Pham's mother through her conversations with Dallas Animal Services personnel. They were extremely helpful throughout the quarantine in providing water, pee pads, toys, Clorox wipes and other disposable items for Bentley's care. Throughout the

Quarantine period, he ate like a champion and had normal, regular stools - which were a great relief.

Without being too medically specific, what kind of tests were run on him and how often?

Bentley was tested on day 8 and day 18 (based on the protocol in humans) - for evidence of virus (by PCR for the virus) on blood, urine and feces. All of the tests at both periods were negative.

Was the 21 day incubation period for humans assumed to be the same for dogs or is there scientific data on this?

There is no scientific data in dogs about the incubation period, whether or not they shed, or what the infection cycle in dogs is - - we tested based on the recommendations of the CDC and what is known in humans and other species -

Any other information that you can provide regarding this ground breaking procedure would be much appreciated.

There are a number of pictures of the reunion of Nina Pham and Bentley on our website - to me that day was more than a special and important day - because it illustrated that we can - if we choose to have compassion and to work together to solve problems, put a small dog back together with her owner - and restore hope and faith in the midst of fear. There were many that did not understand why we would go to such lengths for "just a dog" - but Bentley was more than just a dog. He represented our chance to show the world that fear and panic will not win the day - that we will care for our people and animals in their times of greatest need.

About the Author: Debra L. Zoran, DVM, PhD, DACVIM-SAIM is Professor and Operations Chief TAMU VET, Department of SA Clinical Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at Texas A&M University.



photo by
(l to r) Nina's parents; Nina Pham (center) holding dog Bentley; Dr. Deb Zoran and Dr. Wesley Bissett both of whom treated Bentley.

For more pictures, see
<http://vetmed.tamu.edu/ebola-information>

COSTS OF BENTLEY'S CARE

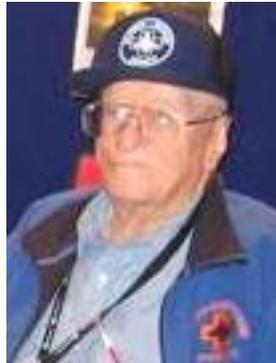
As reported by NBC 5 in Dallas, Texas, on November 1, 2014, a partial cost of Bentley's care to the taxpayers of the City of Dallas has been compiled. As stated by a City of Dallas spokeswoman, donations and grants should cover most of the cost.

According to NBC 5 Investigates, City records covering the period October 14-October 21, the City reported spending \$1,952 to care for the dog. The expenses include:

- \$757 for a truck and generator
- \$616 for "healthcare wipes"
- \$217 for "labor"
- \$192 for "gloves"
- \$40 for "duct tape"
- \$33 for "Clorox bleach"

LOSS TO SAR

On November 27, 2014, SAR lost another innovator: Emil J. Pelcak, 97, one of the original incorporators of Ramapo Rescue Dog Association. Pelcak was born in Guttenberg, New Jersey, on November 18, 1917, and resided in Ramsey, New Jersey



Following are tributes from various SAR personnel.

Penny Sullivan: Emil was my support person on numerous searches in the 70's and 80's, and he served for years as an officer, Board member and the unit's Base Camp Operator. He was very influential in the growth of the American Rescue Dog Association as well.

Gail and Catana and I were fortunate to have visited Emil just a week and a half ago, and Emil celebrated his 97th birthday last Tuesday.

Robert Langendoen: I was fortunate to have worked with Emil for many years when I first came into SAR with Ramapo. Quotable quote which I attribute to Emil was that we were successful because "We put the dog's nose in the right places". He was great to work with, foundational to the beginnings of K9 SAR, early lifetime member of NASAR and to those who knew him, he will always be remembered.

Marcia Koenig: I'll miss Emil. He had a dry sense of humor which some people didn't catch. I loved that!

Linda Murphy: You're right, Marcy, he did have a dry sense of humor. I met him on a few occasions. I loved that he never stopped wanting to learn. What a rich full life he had.

REACTION TO MICHIGAN SEARCH

An Editorial by Sue Wolff

Opinions expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of the National Search Dog Alliance.

Last month's article about the missing 22 month old girl brought reaction from a SAR searcher in Michigan. To recap the search, Brooklyn Lynn Lilly wandered off while playing outside her home in Tawas City, Michigan. State troopers, deputies and firefighters were called in and searched the area on foot, in the air and using ATVs. Twenty-two hours into the search, Trooper Denis McGuckin and his K-9, Jax found Brooklyn in the woods.

The e-mail that was received stated, "There were 8 members and four K-9s as well as our communications trailer, on site, the evening the little girl in Michigan went missing.

***** was ready and willing to

search for this little girl 3.5 hrs after she went missing. Two hours later we were asked to leave as our services were "not needed" as three Mich.



State Police K-9 teams and MSP helo was in the air.

I believe that little girl spent an extra 12 hours in the woods, at night, in the rain, when MSP turned down additional K-9 support that was on scene and ready to search."



Neither NSDA nor I personally want to get involved in local politics so I will not comment on this specific situation. However

I will address what I see as the overall problem.

Individually I have been through similar situations in several states in the South and Northeast and I think it is all a matter of educating law enforcement...not an easy task!

First and foremost: never, ever self-deploy. It doesn't make any difference how good the handler/dog teams are, self-deploying is a turn off for law enforcement (LE). Officers will automatically assume (if you are male) that you brought your hunting dogs or (if you are female) you have no clue. Only respond to a request for assistance from whatever agency is in charge of searches. Even if the family calls, have them go through LE.

Obviously if there is a law enforcement officer on the team, utilize them to communicate with the agency who called out the team. Best case scenario, have team callouts go thru this officer's agency's dispatch. If that isn't possible, make sure that local/state agencies have this officer's contact information...especially at their dispatch.

But before all of this happens, the team LE members need to present the team's qualifications to the Operations Deputy Chief and work down the chain to the shift Sergeants. Bringing Team K-9s to do a demonstration for local LE



shifts is also a plus. If that's not possible, try to work with the department when they do a Police Safety Day. Have a booth and bring as many sociable K-9s as possible. Do a demonstration. The public will enjoy it and it will show them as well as the agency reps at the function what SAR K-9s can do.

Meeting with LE will give you/your team a chance to present your organization's requirements for field operational K-9 teams. At that time, you have the opportunity to explain what obtaining these certifications entails and present other searches in which the team has participated. It will also give you the opportunity to explain that you are non-paid professionals. Stress that you do not expect to be paid for any of the team's services nor are you trying to replace any LE officer(s). It may also help to explain that, even though LE K-9's have tracking abilities, SAR K-9s are trained to do a passive find/re-find in order not to scare a missing child or endangered adult.

In defense of LE, there are often searches where they have more information but cannot release it due to a personal or criminal nature. In this case, if you/your team self-deploys, there is a very good chance that you will be turned away. Having a Team LE liaison who can communicate with the callout agency will avoid bad feelings between team members and LE on the scene AND can keep your team from a pointless response.

Bottom line...education is key: educating LE on the use of SAR K-9's and informing Team members about LE's perspective on a potential crime. Keeping chips off of everyone's shoulders is a must and, again, education is the answer.

All of this takes time. Some agencies are very hesitant to accept help from a civilian group. Some even feel that their jobs are

threatened. Others feel that volunteers are not capable of doing a competent job which is why I prefer to use the term non-paid professional.

Most of all, education needs to be undertaken before searches in order to keep down conflict at a scene which always looks bad especially to the general public and the press. Attack this problem like a search: prepare, plan, execute and de-brief.

Be professional. Have a presentation prepared. Take professional handlers and K-9s. Wear clean, neat uniforms. Above all, be proficient, never defensive and/or argumentative.

Educate LE on how to utilize SAR K-9s to their advantage and you can look forward to working together successfully on many searches...to the benefit of everyone involved, especially the victim.

WARNING: HOLIDAY COMPUTER HAZARDS

By Gary Blocker
NSDA webmaster

Just a reminder that the criminals are out in full force this time of year. We've seen a marked increase in phishing emails hitting our servers. It's very easy when rushing to open an email or attachment with all of the online shopping we do now. Take an extra minute and visit the website

in your browser rather than clicking the links in the email. BTW that is ALWAYS a good idea any time of year. We hope you have a happy holiday



season, and one of the ways to do so is to avoid falling for a scam, or worse.

If you receive an email this holiday season asking you to "confirm" an online e-commerce order or package shipment, please resist the urge to click the included link or attachment: Malware purveyors and spammers are blasting these missives by the millions each day in a bid to trick people into giving up control over their computers and identities.

If you receive an email from a recognized brand that references an issue with an online or in-store order and you think it might be legitimate, do not click the embedded links or attachment. Instead, open up a Web browser and visit the merchant site in question. Generally speaking, legitimate communications about order issues will reference an order number and/or some other data points specific to the transaction — information that can be used to look up the order status at the merchant's Web site.

WARNING: HOLIDAY CANINE HAZARDS

Editor's Note: While this type of article appears every year, it never hurts to remind all handlers and pet owners of seasonal hazards to their animals.

To be prepared even before an emergency happens, download Red Cross Pet First Aid Ap (99¢ at www.redcross.org/apps) for iPhone and Android. This ap will provide 25 common emergency situations for dogs and cats. Also post the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center 888-4-ANI-HELP.

Christmas Tree Water: Dogs who drink the water can become ill from bacteria even in clear water. To prevent this from happening, purchase a tree stand with a cover.



Tree decorations: Low hanging glass ornaments can be easily broken and become imbedded in pet's paws. Dogs will eat a popcorn garland, ingesting the string which often has

to be removed surgically. Tinsel is often eaten as well and is the most common item treated by surgical procedure. Also chewed on tree lights can deliver a life-threatening shock.

Potpourri: The liquid type causes ulcerations in mouth and eyes. Oils are absorbed thru the skin and can damage the animal's liver. The dry type will precipitate diarrhea, vomiting, even death.

Traditional Holiday plants: Poinsettias, lilies, mistletoe and holly can cause gastrointestinal or worse problems if eaten. Lilies cause kidney failure in cats.



Guest's possessions: If coats, purses, packages and other items belonging to guests are left where an animal can get to them, medications, candy, cigarettes etc. may be ingested by a curious animal.

Source: Woman's Day



NSDA & AUSTIN PEAY STATE UNIVERSITY

Former NSDA Executive Director Shayla Price arranged for Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tennessee, and NSDA to become community partners, which involved designing a Media Relations Plan for NSDA.

Included in the plan are a radio ad, a television ad, a social media summary, a press kit, media contact list, a press conference kit, a special event kit and promotional materials. As a final exam, the class made a presentation of the plan via Skype to NSDA President Norma Snelling and Social Media Chair, Suzanne Elschult.

These students, none of whom knew anything about NSDA, took the information provided to them and prepared a comprehensive, professional media plan which is ready to go. As Haley said, "We provided NSDA with many things that could affect their organization in a positive way. I feel that even if they do not use our plans, they now have ideas they can look into using."

Bonnie said, "If I could summarize the entire experience of working on this project for NSDA, I would say it has been a rewarding challenge."

Morgan said, "This project as a whole was a wonderful experience that taught me so much information, and gave me a new insight into an organization I knew nothing about."

KIBBLES & BITS

by Susan Bulanda



One of our readers asked me to comment on the dynamics of the dogs in a unit. This is often an overlooked aspect of unit training. Canine group dynamics is a critical aspect of SAR and, whether a handler realizes it or not, a group dynamic does exist.

The dynamics of a group evolve in all situations where dogs are allowed to socialize or work in the same area. Examples are dog parks, doggie day care centers, group obedience classes, multiple animal households, and even visiting another pet. And the list goes on.

In situations such as dog shows and other onetime events, the dogs are conditioned to ignore other dogs and not to interact. Dogs that cannot do this are not able to compete in events such as agility trials.

With this in mind, it is important to allow unit dogs to form relationships so that they feel safe and comfortable with each other. Although a dog may not show it, if the dog feels uncomfortable or threatened by a dog(s) in a unit, it will detract from their ability to focus on their training. At the least, the dog will start his training or search with some level of negative stress or perhaps worry.

Some handlers may not believe this when they see how excited their dog gets when they are at training or on a search but, keep in mind, how many times the dogs are tethered, crated or confined in a vehicle near to each other. The dogs know who is near and how they feel about their neighbor.

The best way to handle the situation in a positive manner is to have a short, perhaps fifteen – twenty minute group obedience session before training. If the dogs seem comfortable with each other, give them some free play time off leash. It does not have to be long, again, fifteen to twenty minutes.

If a new dog comes into the unit, the best way to introduce the dog is to include the dog in the group obedience session. Then let the dogs sit quietly in the group, on leash so that each dog can sniff and see the new dog. If all seems OK, each unit dog should be allowed to approach the new dog, (both dogs on a loose leash) and greet each other. If there are a lot of dogs (10+) in the unit, only let a few at a time greet the new dog. This can be done throughout the training as dogs wait their turn to go into the field. If all still seems OK, the new dog can join the group for the play session if he has met all of the dogs. If not then the dog should not be allowed to partake in the free play session



until he has had time to meet and feel comfortable with all of the unit dogs. This may take more than one training session.

If there seems to be tenseness or uncertainty among any of the dogs, rather than a free play session, the dogs can be walked on leash together as a group, allowing the new dog to walk near each of the unit dogs.

One main reason why this is important is that during training and searches, there will be situations where the dogs have to work in close proximity to each other. Each dog should feel safe and comfortable with the other dogs in the unit.

It goes without saying that dog aggressive dogs should not be part of the unit no matter how well they search. It is not uncommon on a mission or even in training for a stray dog to wander into the training area or a dog may have to search an area where there is a resident dog that is not friendly. The SAR dog should never engage with an unfamiliar dog in these situations.

While I would not expect this to occur with a trained SAR dog, I want to share an incident that recently happened. I was called as an expert witness in a case that involved a doggie day care. Small dogs 9 lbs and larger were put in an indoor room with large dogs ranging from 60- 80 lbs. The dogs were not properly introduced or supervised. The video showed three of the large dogs and some medium size dogs running over to the 9 lb dog that had only been in the day care for four days. The small dog became frightened as he was cornered by the other dogs. After a few minutes, it appears that the small dog tried to defend itself and that triggered an all out melee. The result was that three of the large dogs bit the small dog and killed it. The large dogs were tested and proved not to be dog aggressive. However, the situation was not handled correctly in that 1) small dogs should never be housed with large dogs, 2) the dogs were not properly introduced and 3) no one was present.

The event was captured on video which did not show all of the details. It is a sad thing that happened, but with proper supervision and introduction, the situation was avoidable. None of the dogs involved were dog aggressive.

This is just an example of how important it is to allow dogs to meet each other in the manner that their species dictates is the proper way to meet.

Trivia



1. Why is shifting responsibility to someone else called 'passing the buck'?

In card games, it was once customary to pass an item, called a buck, from player to player to indicate whose turn it was to deal. If a player did not wish to assume the responsibility of dealing, he would 'pass the buck' to the next player.

2. Why do people clink their glasses before drinking a toast?

In earlier times it used to be common for someone to try to kill an enemy by offering him a poisoned drink. To prove to a guest that a drink was safe, it became customary for a guest to pour a small amount of his drink into the glass of the host. Both men would drink it simultaneously. When a guest trusted his host, he would only touch or clink the host's glass with his own.



3. Why are people in the public eye said to be 'in the limelight'?

Invented in 1825, limelight was used in lighthouses and theatres by burning a cylinder of lime which produced a brilliant light. In the theatre, a performer 'in the limelight' was the centre of attention.

4. Why is someone who is feeling great 'on cloud nine'?

Types of clouds are numbered according to the altitudes they attain, with nine being the highest cloud. If someone is said to be on cloud nine, that person is floating well above worldly cares.



5. In golf, where did the term 'Caddie' come from?

When Mary, Queen of Scots went to France as a young girl, Louis, King of France, learned that she loved the Scots game 'golf.' He had the first course outside of Scotland built for her enjoyment. To make sure she was properly chaperoned (and guarded) while she played, Louis hired cadets from a military school to accompany her. Mary liked this a lot and when she returned to Scotland (not a very good idea in the long run), she took the practice with her. In French, the word cadet is pronounced 'ca-day' and the Scots changed it into caddie.



President's Report

Our 2014 testing stats are pathetic. This is the conclusion I reached after reviewing our testing for 2014. Things are going to change in 2015. We are instituting regional testing and reaching out to areas that we did not cover in 2014, as well as filling personal requests for tests. If we need more evaluators, we will find them – without compromising our standards. I know you are out there. Do you have five years experience in a discipline and 10 deployments? Come join us and help K9 handlers across the country gain credibility and experience with attaining standards that they can be proud to take to their agencies. Be instrumental in raising the bar for those folks responsible for saving lives and making recoveries for your community.

Check our website at www.n-sda.org under Evaluator Information

OPEN POSITIONS IN NSDA

Please note that NSDA exists only because of the volunteers who work within it. We have no paid personnel. Without you, we are gone. How many hours can you spare to help us keep growing in order to help you?

Many of these positions require multiple people!

Newsletter Editor

- a. Recruit contributors of articles and stories pertinent to canine SAR
- b. Compile material in an organized and interesting manner
- c. Be able to meet deadlines and require deadlines from contributors
- d. Have a good level of sensitivity to all readers

NSDA Conference Coordinator

- a. Seek out teams in all regions of the country willing to sponsor a seminar
- b. Review the disciplines best suited for the local needs, the terrain available and realistic number of participants
- c. Provide teams with our procedures and step by step methods of preparation
- d. Assist in locating instructors. Increase our existing list.
- e. Advertise and promote the seminar

Assistance can be found for any subsections of this position

Requires initiative, cooperative efforts dealing with people, systematic implementation



THE LAST HOWL

By Sue Wolff

Opinions expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of the National Search Dog Alliance.



'Tis the season...for lots of holidays. First there's Hanukkah which begins at sundown on December 16th. Then Christmas is December 25th and Kwanzaa begins on December 26th.

'Tis the season....for parties and celebrations. It's time to have fun and enjoy the company of others but heed the hazards for your K-9 (see page 7). Most of all, don't let pleasure substitute for safety. Make sure all candles, cigarettes and other burning objects are extinguished. Don't drive under the influence; have a designated driver so everyone will arrive home in one piece. Even if you don't imbibe, being tired is also another reason to let someone else drive—something to keep in mind after searches too.

'Tis the season...for caring and giving. We give to those we care about and we give to our communities. But are our searches enough? Could we provide education to the community's children about what to do if they get lost? Can we acquaint our residents with SAR K-9s and how they work to save those lost and endangered? Can we see that our citizens are prepared for a disaster by educating Emergency Managers and providing CERT classes?

There are many ways to provide assistance to our communities besides our main function of searching. Our sociable SAR

dogs can provide education to the local school children and can become therapy dogs for those in need of love and attention.

'Tis the season...to remember those we love who are with us and those who have gone. SAR has lost many founders recently (see page 5), persons who have helped start SAR teams and those who have advanced knowledge in K-9 SAR. We still have some "old timers" with us and it would behoove us all to take advantage of their knowledge before it's lost to us for good.

Board of Directors—

Norma Snelling, President, Washington

nstelling@n-sda.org

360-808-0894

Terry Crooks, Vice-President, Montana

tcrooks@n-sda.org

Julie Gibson, Secretary, Idaho

jgibson@n-sda.org

Sherry Scruggs, Treasurer, Georgia

scruggs@n-sda.org

Suzanne Elshult, Washington

selshult@n-sda.org

Susan Fleming, Pennsylvania

sfleming@n-sda.org

Gloria Howard, Florida

[ghoward@n-sda.org](mailto:goward@n-sda.org)

Jan Meyer, Missouri

jmeyer@n-sda.org

Robert Noziska, New Mexico

rnoziska@n-sda.org

Advocacy Council

- Susan Bulanda
- Frank Hancock
- Lisa Higgins
- Marcia Koenig
- Carol Ann Namur
- Larry Welker
- Dee Wild
- Arthur E. Wolff
- Sue Wolff



TRAINING, SEMINARS & CONFERENCES

REACH OVER 1,300 SAR K-9 HANDLERS. LIST YOUR TRAININGS, SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES IN THE *SAR DOG NEWS*

Contact Temporary Editor Norma Snelling at snelling@olypen.com

2015

January 10, Surface Ice Rescue Awareness, Camp Atterbury, Edinburgh, Indiana. For more information call Lillian Hardy at 812-526-0013 or e-mail lhardy@dhs.in.gov

January 11, Basic Tracking/Trailing Techniques for K-9s, Camp Atterbury, Edinburgh, Indiana. For more information call Lillian Hardy at 812-526-0013 or e-mail lhardy@dhs.in.gov

January 17-18, Intermediate Air Scenting Techniques for K-9s, Camp Atterbury, Edinburgh, Indiana. For more information call Lillian Hardy at 812-526-0013 or e-mail lhardy@dhs.in.gov

January 24, K-9 First Aid, Camp Atterbury, Edinburgh, Indiana. For more information call Lillian Hardy at 812-526-0013 or e-mail lhardy@dhs.in.gov

January 26-29, CNCA Training Institute, Burbank, California. For more information, see www.cna.com

February 7, Surface Ice Rescue Awareness, Camp Atterbury, Edinburgh, Indiana. For more information call Lillian Hardy at 812-526-0013 or e-mail lhardy@dhs.in.gov

February 21-22, Building Search Techniques for K-9s, Muscatatuck. For more information call Lillian Hardy at 812-526-0013 or e-mail lhardy@dhs.in.gov

February 28- MAR 1, Intermediate Tracking/Trailing Techniques for K-9s, Camp Atterbury, Edinburgh, Indiana. For more information call Lillian Hardy at 812-526-0013 or e-mail lhardy@dhs.in.gov

March 7, Crime Scene Operations – Blood Borne Pathogens, Camp Atterbury, Edinburgh, Indiana. For more information call Lillian Hardy at 812-526-0013 or e-mail lhardy@dhs.in.gov

March 7-8, Intermediate Cadaver Search Techniques for K-9s, Camp Atterbury, Edinburgh, Indiana. For more information call Lillian Hardy at 812-526-0013 or e-mail lhardy@dhs.in.gov

March 14-15, Intermediate Disaster Techniques for K-9s, Camp Atterbury, Edinburgh, Indiana. For more information call Lillian Hardy at 812-526-0013 or e-mail lhardy@dhs.in.gov

March 21-22, Ground Search awareness, Camp Atterbury, Edinburgh, Indiana. For more information call Lillian Hardy at 812-526-0013 or e-mail lhardy@dhs.in.gov

Training, Seminars & Conferences Continued

2015 continued

March 28-29, Advanced Land Cadaver Techniques for K-9s, Camp Atterbury, Edinburgh, Indiana. For more information call Lillian Hardy at 812-526-0013 or e-mail lhardy@dhs.in.gov

April 11, Basic Tracking/Trailing Techniques for K-9s, Camp Atterbury, Edinburgh, Indiana. For more information call Lillian Hardy at 812-526-0013 or e-mail lhardy@dhs.in.gov

April 12, K-9 Pretest, Camp Atterbury, Edinburgh, Indiana. For more information call Lillian Hardy at 812-526-0013 or e-mail lhardy@dhs.in.gov

April 25, Basic Land Cadaver Techniques for K-9s, Camp Atterbury, Edinburgh, Indiana. For more information call Lillian Hardy at 812-526-0013 or e-mail lhardy@dhs.in.gov

April 26, Basic Air Scenting Techniques for K-9s, Camp Atterbury, Edinburgh, Indiana. For more information call Lillian Hardy at 812-526-0013 or e-mail lhardy@dhs.in.gov

April 18-19, Ground Search Awareness, Camp Atterbury, Edinburgh, Indiana. For more information call Lillian Hardy at 812-526-0013 or e-mail lhardy@dhs.in.gov

May 2-3, Ground Search Operations, Camp Atterbury, Edinburgh, Indiana. For more information call Lillian Hardy at 812-526-0013 or e-mail lhardy@dhs.in.gov

May 2-3, Intermediate Tracking/Trailing Techniques for K-9s, Camp Atterbury, Edinburgh, Indiana. For more information call Lillian Hardy at 812-526-0013 or e-mail lhardy@dhs.in.gov

May 11-15, Washington State Search and Rescue Conference Pre-Conference K9 Workshops, Water Searching for Experienced HRD K9 Handlers, Human Remains Detection Workshop, K-9 First Responder workshop for Local Response. Contact: Marcia Koenig at marciakoenig@earthlink.net 206-360-0444 or Heather Cutting HeatherJoCutting@gmail.com 206-550-7971

May 13-14, Advanced Tracking/Trailing Search Techniques for K-9s, Camp Atterbury, Edinburgh, Indiana. For more information call Lillian Hardy at 812-526-0013 or e-mail lhardy@dhs.in.gov

May 16-17, K-9 Credentialing Test, Camp Atterbury, Edinburgh, Indiana. For more information call Lillian Hardy at 812-526-0013 or e-mail lhardy@dhs.in.gov

June 4-7, 2015 NSDA Summer Seminar, Camp Reed, Spokane, Washington

June 12-13, Scenarios Workshop, Cody, Wyoming. For further information, go to Northwest K9 Search and Recovery (NWK9SAR.com) and click on training.

June 12-14, SAR Conference, Camp Atterbury, Edinburgh, Indiana. For more information call Lillian Hardy at 812-526-0013 or e-mail lhardy@dhs.in.gov

June 26 and 27, Scenarios Workshop, Driggs, Idaho. For further information, go to Northwest K9 Search and Recovery (NWK9SAR.com) and click on training.

June 27-28, Ground Search Technician, Camp Atterbury, Edinburgh, Indiana. For more information call Lillian Hardy at 812-526-0013 or e-mail lhardy@dhs.in.gov

Training, Seminars & Conferences Continued

2015 continued

June 27-28, Advanced Disaster Techniques for K-9s, Camp Atterbury, Edinburgh, Indiana. For more information call Lillian Hardy at 812-526-0013 or e-mail lhardy@dhs.in.gov

July 3-4, Water HRD Workshop, Cody, Wyoming. For further information, go to Northwest K9 Search and Recovery (NWK9SAR.com) and click on training.

July 11-12, Water Cadaver Search Techniques for K-9s, Camp Atterbury, Edinburgh, Indiana. For more information call Lillian Hardy at 812-526-0013 or e-mail lhardy@dhs.in.gov

July 25-26, Intermediate Air Scenting Techniques for K-9s, Camp Atterbury, Edinburgh, Indiana. For more information call Lillian Hardy at 812-526-0013 or e-mail lhardy@dhs.in.gov

August 1, Crime Scene Operations – Blood Borne Pathogens, Camp Atterbury, Edinburgh, Indiana. For more information call Lillian Hardy at 812-526-0013 or e-mail lhardy@dhs.in.gov

August 2, K-9 Pretest, Camp Atterbury, Edinburgh, Indiana. For more information call Lillian Hardy at 812-526-0013 or e-mail lhardy@dhs.in.gov

August 29-30, Advanced Land Cadaver Techniques for K-9s, Camp Atterbury, Edinburgh, Indiana. For more information call Lillian Hardy at 812-526-0013 or e-mail lhardy@dhs.in.gov

September 19-20, K-9 Credentialing Test, Camp Atterbury, Edinburgh, Indiana. For more information call Lillian Hardy at 812-526-0013 or e-mail lhardy@dhs.in.gov

October 10, Skills Day, Camp Atterbury, Edinburgh, Indiana. For more information call Lillian Hardy at 812-526-0013 or e-mail lhardy@dhs.in.gov