

# Dog Talk



The official *unofficial* newsletter for FEMA dog handlers

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## Penn Vet Working Dog Conference

Recently I had the privilege of attending the 2011 Penn Vet Working Dog Conference, sponsored by the Penn Vet Working Dog Center and Finding One Another, on September 7-9, 2011 in Pearl River, NY. Having participated in last year's event I was eager to see what this year's conference would entail. Once again the conference coordinators hit the mark. The keynote panel addressed the topic of "honoring the past and preparing for the future" on Wednesday evening, setting the tone for the following two days of informative briefings from around the globe.

Many times we miss the opportunity to reflect on our history and those that have come before us, the sacrifices they made and the accomplishments we have benefited from as a result. But the most important lesson from history is not to be awed by its presence and power, but to take those lessons and build upon them. As for preparing for the future, the future starts today – with each and every one of us.

This year's conference theme was centered on "defining, developing and documenting success in working dogs" and each of the presenters focused on their defined areas of expertise. Starting with development and epigenetics – (the new nature-nurture); moving on to personality and performance in working dogs; to measuring and investigating factors which affect the performance of search dogs, their handlers and dog-handler teams; to a practical guide for creating performance metrics and valid tests; and wrapping up with the athletic building blocks of detection dog performance. These are but a few of the many topics that were covered by experts in the field. The presentations often carried over to in-depth discussions immediately following – then on to the break areas, lunch and dinner time.

In most instances we have very successful conferences, where a lot of information is passed on to the attendees; networking takes place during breaks, meals and after hours, business cards are distributed throughout - but they are often set-aside until the next conference, meeting, or event. One of the most exciting outcomes of this conference was that it did not end on Friday afternoon after the last speaker, as scheduled – it carried on where a group of conference attendees insisted

on capturing the momentum of the conference and addressing what needs to be accomplished to better the working dog community as a whole. The group laid out specific areas needed to be addressed as we move forward. These included; communicating findings to handlers and other organizations in the working dog field, monitoring progress by driving the culmination of research into best practices and standards that are utilized in the field, focusing on a consortium of resources, not an exclusive proprietorship of information, inclusion of all working dog groups for information gathering and dissemination and exploring the possibilities of a future steering committee to address key issues.

I believe we all left the 2011 Penn Vet Working Dog Conference with a renewed sense of involvement in advancing the future of the working dog community and a greater commitment of embracing the youth of tomorrow in carrying out these efforts.

**David Kontny**

Senior Advisor

Canine Policy & Programs Directorate

Department of Homeland Security

## 2012 K9 Dates

Jan 21/22 CA-TF6 CE - Announcement is out

Feb 18/19 FL-TF1 CE- Announcement is out

Mar 24/25 FL-TF2 CP

April (none)

May 12/13 IN-TF1 CE

Some interesting links.....

Blog on working puppies...

<http://denisefenzi.com/2011/11/25/talent-and-puppies/>

### Colorado State University Animal Cancer Center

The CSU Animal Cancer Center exists to advance the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer in pet animals and to advance cancer research to benefit all species.

There is a free consult center for cancer patients ~ Carmen's gift

[Colorado State University Animal Cancer Center - Fort Collins, Colorado - Consult Service](http://www.csuanimalcancercenter.org/fs-carmen) <http://www.csuanimalcancercenter.org/fs-carmen> [www.csuanimalcancercenter.org](http://www.csuanimalcancercenter.org)

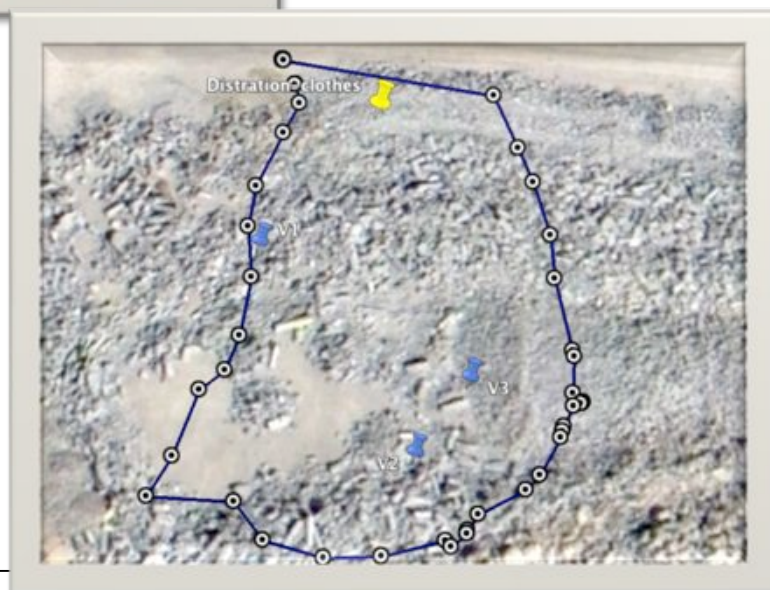
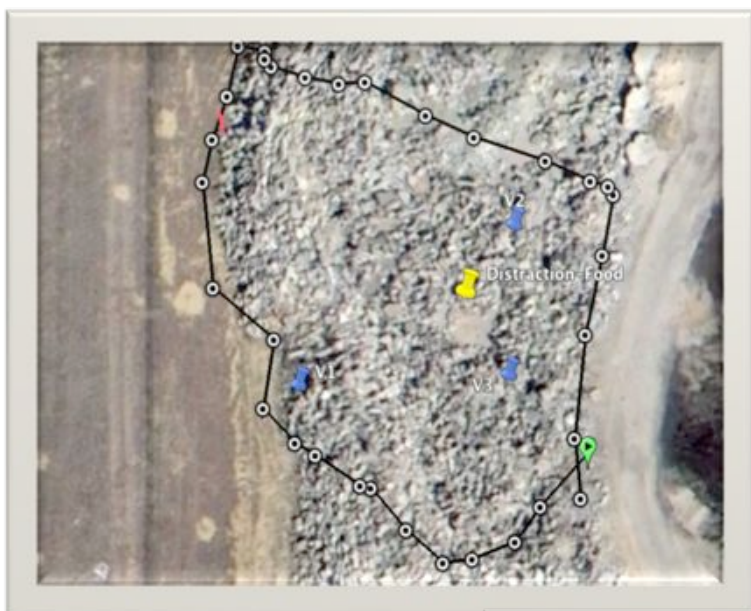


# ☆☆☆☆ Kudos to.....☆☆☆☆

DOGTALK is pleased to announce that the following Canine Search Teams have recently gained certification (or re-certification) as FEMA US&R Canine Search Specialists.

## ☆ Denver, CO – Sept 2011

Handler	Canine	Task Force
Adam Cooper	Pierce	CO-TF1
Tim Houwelling	Tater	CA-TF3
Mary Flood	BB	UT-TF1
Kelly Gordon	Mattie	CA-TF8
Steve McDonald	Lilly	NE-TF1
Sean Oliver	Libby	WA-TF1



**☆ Linthicum, MD – Oct 2011**

Handler	Canine	Task Force
Christy Bormann	Cody	TX-TF1
Konnie Hein	Juice	MA-TF1
Roseann DeLuca	Ben	PA-TF1
Kent Olsen	Chase	WA-TF1
Craig Veldheer	Cirque	OH-TF1
Chris Holleyman	Petzi	VA-TF1
Sean Stone	Murdoch	NY-TF1
Pat Kaynaroglu	Rip	CO-TF1



☆ Phoenix, AZ – Nov 2011

Handler	Canine	Task Force
Don Peyton	Mac	AZ-TF1
Shawn Kelly	Trooper	AZ-TF1
Robyn Krumwiede	Bear	AZ-TF1
Rob Bolvin	PD	AZ-TF1
Kim Norman	Gunny	AZ-TF1
Lynn Ballard	Max	MO-TF1
Connie Millard	Rock	MO-TF1
Karen Meadows	Luke	VA-TF1
Doug Van Iwaarden	Wylie	CA-TF5
Craig Orum	Kirby	UT-TF1
Linda D'Orsi	Haley	CA-TF8



And some photos from CP in Salt Lake City, UT, Oct 2011....



**NATIONAL URBAN SEARCH & RESCUE RESPONSE SYSTEM  
2012 ROTATION MODEL**

Rotation	REGION	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN
1st	W	WA-TF1	CA-TF6	CA-TF2	CA-TF7	CA-TF5	CA-TF4	CA-TF1	CA-TF8	CA-TF3	WA-TF1	CA-TF6	CA-TF2	CA-TF7
	C	TN-TF1	CO-TF1	NM-TF1	NE-TF1	NV-TF1	IN-TF1	MO-TF1	TX-TF1	UT-TF1	AZ-TF1	TN-TF1	CO-TF1	NM-TF1
	E	VA-TF1	MD-TF1	FL-TF2	OH-TF1	NY-TF1	FL-TF1	PA-TF1	VA-TF2	MA-TF1	VA-TF1	MD-TF1	FL-TF2	OH-TF1
2nd	W	CA-TF6	CA-TF2	CA-TF7	CA-TF5	CA-TF4	CA-TF1	CA-TF8	CA-TF3	WA-TF1	CA-TF6	CA-TF2	CA-TF7	CA-TF5
	C	CO-TF1	NM-TF1	NE-TF1	NV-TF1	IN-TF1	MO-TF1	TX-TF1	UT-TF1	AZ-TF1	TN-TF1	CO-TF1	NM-TF1	NE-TF1
	E	MD-TF1	FL-TF2	OH-TF1	NY-TF1	FL-TF1	PA-TF1	VA-TF2	MA-TF1	VA-TF1	MD-TF1	FL-TF2	OH-TF1	NY-TF1
3rd	W	CA-TF2	CA-TF7	CA-TF5	CA-TF4	CA-TF1	CA-TF8	CA-TF3	WA-TF1	CA-TF6	CA-TF2	CA-TF7	CA-TF5	CA-TF4
	C	NM-TF1	NE-TF1	NV-TF1	IN-TF1	MO-TF1	TX-TF1	UT-TF1	AZ-TF1	TN-TF1	CO-TF1	NM-TF1	NE-TF1	NV-TF1
	E	FL-TF2	OH-TF1	NY-TF1	FL-TF1	PA-TF1	VA-TF2	MA-TF1	VA-TF1	MD-TF1	FL-TF2	OH-TF1	NY-TF1	FL-TF1
4th	W	CA-TF7	CA-TF5	CA-TF4	CA-TF1	CA-TF8	CA-TF3	WA-TF1	CA-TF6	CA-TF2	CA-TF7	CA-TF5	CA-TF4	CA-TF1
	C	NE-TF1	NV-TF1	IN-TF1	MO-TF1	TX-TF1	UT-TF1	AZ-TF1	TN-TF1	CO-TF1	NM-TF1	NE-TF1	NV-TF1	IN-TF1
	E	OH-TF1	NY-TF1	FL-TF1	PA-TF1	VA-TF2	MA-TF1	VA-TF1	MD-TF1	FL-TF2	OH-TF1	NY-TF1	FL-TF1	PA-TF1
5th	W	CA-TF5	CA-TF4	CA-TF1	CA-TF8	CA-TF3	WA-TF1	CA-TF6	CA-TF2	CA-TF7	CA-TF5	CA-TF4	CA-TF1	CA-TF8
	C	NV-TF1	IN-TF1	MO-TF1	TX-TF1	UT-TF1	AZ-TF1	TN-TF1	CO-TF1	NM-TF1	NE-TF1	NV-TF1	IN-TF1	MO-TF1
	E	NY-TF1	FL-TF1	PA-TF1	VA-TF2	MA-TF1	VA-TF1	MD-TF1	FL-TF2	OH-TF1	NY-TF1	FL-TF1	PA-TF1	VA-TF2
6th	W	CA-TF4	CA-TF1	CA-TF8	CA-TF3	WA-TF1	CA-TF6	CA-TF2	CA-TF7	CA-TF5	CA-TF4	CA-TF1	CA-TF8	CA-TF3
	C	IN-TF1	MO-TF1	TX-TF1	UT-TF1	AZ-TF1	TN-TF1	CO-TF1	NM-TF1	NE-TF1	NV-TF1	IN-TF1	MO-TF1	TX-TF1
	E	FL-TF1	PA-TF1	VA-TF2	MA-TF1	VA-TF1	MD-TF1	FL-TF2	OH-TF1	NY-TF1	FL-TF1	PA-TF1	VA-TF2	MA-TF1
7th	W	CA-TF1	CA-TF8	CA-TF3	WA-TF1	CA-TF6	CA-TF2	CA-TF7	CA-TF5	CA-TF4	CA-TF1	CA-TF8	CA-TF3	WA-TF1
	C	MO-TF1	TX-TF1	UT-TF1	AZ-TF1	TN-TF1	CO-TF1	NM-TF1	NE-TF1	NV-TF1	IN-TF1	MO-TF1	TX-TF1	UT-TF1
	E	PA-TF1	VA-TF2	MA-TF1	VA-TF1	MD-TF1	FL-TF2	OH-TF1	NY-TF1	FL-TF1	PA-TF1	VA-TF2	MA-TF1	VA-TF1
8th	W	CA-TF8	CA-TF3	WA-TF1	CA-TF6	CA-TF2	CA-TF7	CA-TF5	CA-TF4	CA-TF1	CA-TF8	CA-TF3	WA-TF1	CA-TF6
	C	TX-TF1	UT-TF1	AZ-TF1	TN-TF1	CO-TF1	NM-TF1	NE-TF1	NV-TF1	IN-TF1	MO-TF1	TX-TF1	UT-TF1	AZ-TF1
	E	VA-TF2	MA-TF1	VA-TF1	MD-TF1	FL-TF2	OH-TF1	NY-TF1	FL-TF1	PA-TF1	VA-TF2	MA-TF1	VA-TF1	MD-TF1
9th	W	CA-TF3	WA-TF1	CA-TF6	CA-TF2	CA-TF7	CA-TF5	CA-TF4	CA-TF1	CA-TF8	CA-TF3	WA-TF1	CA-TF6	CA-TF2
	C	UT-TF1	AZ-TF1	TN-TF1	CO-TF1	NM-TF1	NE-TF1	NV-TF1	IN-TF1	MO-TF1	TX-TF1	UT-TF1	AZ-TF1	TN-TF1
	E	MA-TF1	VA-TF1	MD-TF1	FL-TF2	OH-TF1	NY-TF1	FL-TF1	PA-TF1	VA-TF2	MA-TF1	VA-TF1	MD-TF1	FL-TF2
10th	C	AZ-TF1	TN-TF1	CO-TF1	NM-TF1	NE-TF1	NV-TF1	IN-TF1	MO-TF1	TX-TF1	UT-TF1	AZ-TF1	TN-TF1	CO-TF1
	IST Rotation	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN



# *In memory of...*



## **Faza “happy face”**

Faza z. Podvihorlatu-  
Type 1 FEMA, SchH3 CDN Nationals 2008, CGN

Faza was an amazing partner and the truest best friend through many wonderful and difficult times in my life. Together we achieved a lot of amazing things- and hopefully did some good and inspired others along the way. She was a special dog in more ways than I can ever express. She was powerful and willing and fearless and the true description of what a German Shepherd should be- versatile in all work. If she understood she would gladly do it with gusto. Her legacy lives on through puppies in Police work, Search and Rescue and Seeing Eye. Her time was way too short when she passed at just 8 yrs old from degenerative myelopathy. Its taken me a year to be able to write this and have it posted forever on the memorial page.....Faza passed away in October of 2010.

Our journey together is not over yet !

Roseann DeLuca, PATF1





# Orion

Emberain's Orion the Hunter – January 7, 1998 to November 21, 2011

Orion had two long, distinguished careers. The first is the one known about to members of the search community. He was a Type I USAR dog and, with his wilderness and avalanche certifications, an active member of groups such as Yosemite Search Dogs and the Tahoe Nordic Ski Patrol. I accompanied him on some fantastic missions in the high Sierra, out to the California coast, and into some pretty rough vegetation in the fields and streams near where I live. I took him to New Orleans with CA-TF 3, where we worked for 2 weeks, and to New York with CA-TF 4, where we worked for less than a week. As one of the few dogs who survived the



decade after 9/11, he was able to represent all of his canine friends and co-workers at the ten-year anniversary ceremonies, and in Charlotte Dumas' book *Retrieved*. Orion's other career was as a member of my family, and if anything he was even more successful there. He was loved by neighbors, Boy Scouts, Rotarians, and random people met in the park. He welcomed Ann as my friend, and then my girlfriend, and finally as my wife. He knew there was always enough love for all of us to share. He even welcomed her cats. Finally, when his nephew Helios showed up 5 years ago and started attending search training, Orion accommodated him as well.

Orion's approach to life was – There are no strangers, only friends that I have yet to meet. My approach to Orion's life was to conduct an experiment to see how much attention one Golden Retriever could absorb in his lifetime. It was as perfect a pairing as could be imagined.



Fare well, old friend. You will be missed.

Please forward any news, scheduled events, letters to the editor, or other info you want disseminated via **DOGTALK**, the underground canine newsletter to Anne McCurdy: [amccurdy@iuhealth.org](mailto:amccurdy@iuhealth.org)

