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PENINSULA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

PVMA News

“PERFORMING-ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY”

A TALK PRESENTED BY

JACKIE GAI, DVM



Jackie Gai, DVM is the Director of Veterinary Services for the “Performing Animal Welfare Society” (PAWS) since 2001. Paws, founded in 1984, has three sanctuaries in Northern California. All are home to a large variety of species including elephants, big cats, bears and other exotics rescued or retired from circuses, zoos and the exotic pet trade.

Dr. Gai has worked as a veterinarian with captive wildlife for 19 years. During that time she has served as a USDA Inspector, been a member of the CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife Advisory Committee, the American Assn of Zoo Veterinarians Animal Welfare Committee, and the UC Davis Small Animal External Advisory Committee.

Dr. Gai has been an invited speaker and guest lecturer at UC Davis and multiple conferences and symposia. She has also authored and co-authored several peer-reviewed scientific papers on topics that benefit animal welfare.

To send a donation to PAWS: www.pawsweb.org/donate_online.html

www.PeninsulaVMA.org

Next PVMA Meeting: Tuesday Jan. 21, 2020

This PVMA meeting program offers 1 hour of CE Credit

The meeting will be held at **The Vans Restaurant** in Belmont located at **815 Belmont Avenue**, west off El Camino Real, up the hill. There is parking adjacent and also across the street to the northwest.

6:30 pm for adult beverages - 7:00 pm for dinner and program

PVMA members FREE * Life Members \$25 * Guests \$25

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Newsletter Editor Notes

email address is:

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brief articles, news items or
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All submissions must be received by
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Please contact Dr. Paul Lunsman at: [*plunsman@pacbell.net*](mailto:plunsman@pacbell.net)



CITY BEARS

Hundreds of black bears are building dens within the city limits of Asheville, North Carolina, a town of 92,000 population that is home to North Carolina State University. They're roaming streets based on garbage pickup schedules and scavenging in back yards for such delicacies as bird seed. Researchers with the Urban/Suburban Bear Study are coaching 2,000 residents in two Asheville neighborhoods on securing garbage in bear-proof containers. Asheville has grown nearly 40% in the past 20 years with retirees in the western Blue Ridge Mountains. Bears now number more than 4,000 in the surrounding region compared to fewer than 1,000 in 1980. Asheville is unique in the southeast for the size of its bear population. Bear hunting is allowed with 1,203 bears harvested in 2017. Ten miles east of Asheville, a woman walking her dog was badly injured by a mother bear scrounging for garbage. Wildlife officers euthanized the bear. It is increasingly common for the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission to receive complaints about bear-pet encounters.



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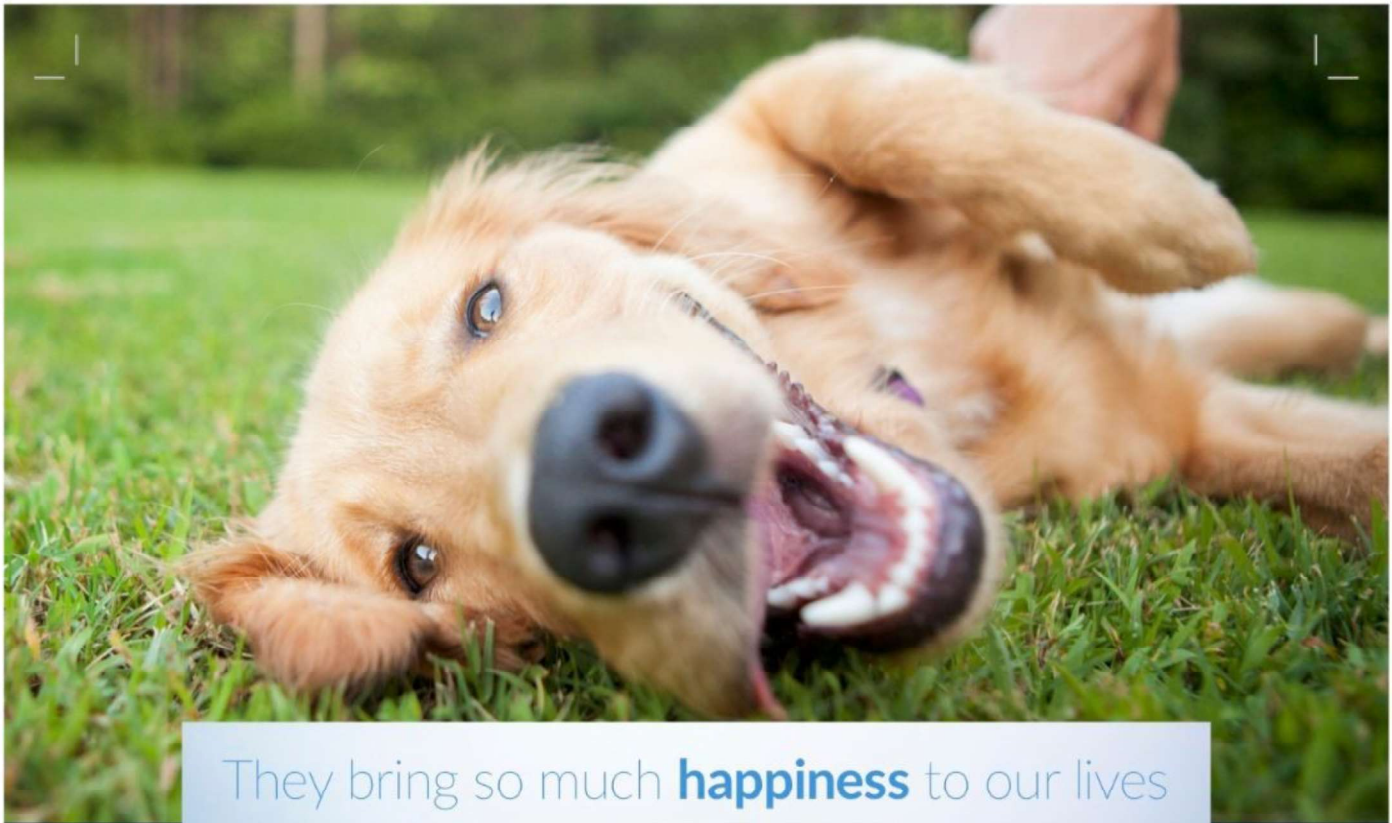
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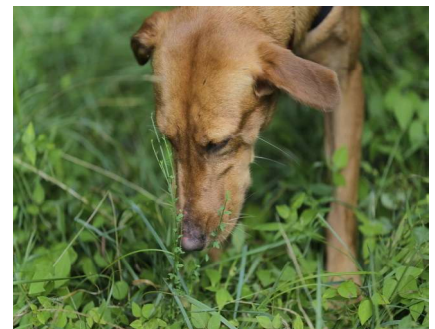
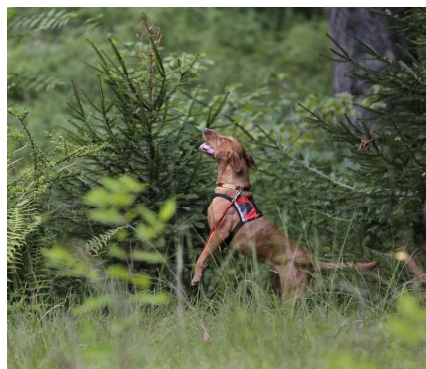
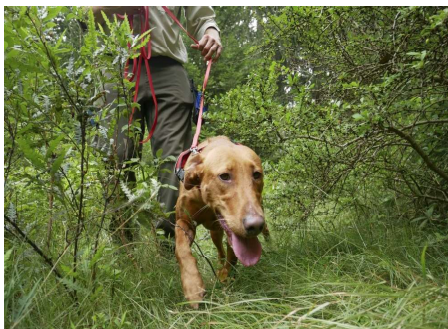
Invasive Plants Meet Detection Dogs



Detection dogs have long been used to sniff out drugs, explosives, cadavers and disaster survivors. In the mid-1990s, handlers started training them for conservation tasks such as sniffing out scat from endangered species and detecting trafficked ivory. Now the olfactory prowess of detection dogs is becoming an important tool in the fight against invasive plants and insects.

“Working Dogs for Conservation” in Bozeman, Montana has trained dogs to find Spotted Napweed in Montana, Chinese Bush Clover in Iowa, Yellow Star Thistle in Colorado, Rosy Wolf Snails in Hawaii and Brown Tree Snakes in Guam. Weed-pulling teams had tried for years to get rid of Dyer’s Woad, a knee-high weed from Russia alongside roads across the American West. A Border Collie and a Golden Retriever from Working Dogs for Conservation were brought into focus efforts. Within a few years the noxious plants were almost gone. The key to their success is that dogs can sniff out plants hidden among other plants without the need to see flowers like human searchers do.

Working Dogs for Conservation trains shelter dogs for detection work, screening 1,000 dogs for every one they put to work. They have trained more than 200 dog/handler teams in global wildlife trafficking and have now added invasive plant species work. The field has greatly enlarged in the last 15 years. They have partnered with government agencies, researchers and non-profits on five continents to provide trained dog/handler teams for conservation projects worldwide.





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NEWS:

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