

Jo Huxel is a professional dog trainer and currently handles her deployable dogs that are German Shorthair Pointers: Bax (Human Remains Detection) and her 2 Live-Find dogs, Cassia and Rumo. She is a founding member and serves on the Board of Northwest Human Remains Detection (NWHRD) and is the Training Officer for Northwest Disaster Search Dogs (NDSD) in addition to being a member of WA-TF 1 (FEMA). She is also an evaluator for FEMA.

She and Bax work a full spectrum of HRD including criminal cases, wilderness searches and disaster scenes for local Law Enforcement, Federal Agencies and FEMA. Bax is certified in Disaster HRD, Land and Water (Boat/Shoreline) HRD. Rumo and Cassia are FEMA certified LF dogs and also hold Wilderness Area Certifications.

Jo started her SAR career in South Africa where she was a member of K9SARA and is now based in Washington State.

Jo has a master's degree in teaching and runs her own dog training business, Wildfang Canine Consulting. She is a certified Absolute Pro Dog Trainer and an AKC CGC evaluator. She instructs for detection/SAR K9, sport, pet dog classes and private sessions both online and in-person.

Besides HRD/LF her training focus is on Motivation, Marker and Reward systems for Performance for Search/Detection Dogs.

When her time allows, Jo and her dogs enjoy participating dog sports like Obedience, Rally Obedience and Dock Diving.