



INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION DETECTION DOG ASSOCIATION

May 5, 2013

Dear Colleagues,

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There has been a rapid growth in the application of detection dogs to wildlife conservation and management. This is great news because detection dogs can dramatically increase sample detection rates and hence the quality of information used to make conservation and management decisions.

In an effort to increase the accessibility of conservation detection dogs, help assure quality control, and create a forum where dog handlers can communicate with and support one another, members of several conservation detection groups ([Conservation Canines](#), [PackLeader LLC](#), and [Working Dogs for Conservation](#)) have formed the International Conservation Detection Dog Association (ICDDA). The ICDDA is incorporated as a non-profit corporation in the state of Montana and will apply for U.S. federal tax-exempt status in the coming months. The mission of ICDDA is to: *Provide a forum for interaction and information sharing among dog handlers, offer support and education on the use of detection dogs in the field of conservation, and standards and certification for conservation dog/handler teams.*

In serving this mission, ICDDA is developing an accreditation program to certify that dogs and handlers meet certain key standards required to reliably provide their services to others. As with any rapidly growing method, effective use benefits the entire user community by demonstrating the full utility of the tool. The ICDDA aims to support the conservation dog methodology by hosting annual association meetings and providing a forum for handlers to share knowledge and experiences about dog selection, training and handling—key issues that impact performance. Additionally, the ICDDA will be a resource for those wishing to incorporate conservation dogs into their research, management, and conservation initiatives. In this way, ICDDA hopes to set a standard of care, training and implementation that the conservation community can rely on.

We are writing to invite you to join the ICDDA and help it grow into an effective and collegial association that benefits dogs, handlers and the conservation community.

We plan to launch a website in 2013 to connect members and plan ICDDA's first event, which will include speakers, networking, hands-on dog opportunities and more.

For more information, please write to aimee.icdda@gmail.com.

To join, please complete the attached form and return to toni.icdda@gmail.com.

We thank you in advance for your interest and participation in this new, collegial endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Aimee H".

Aimee Hurt
ICDDA President

