

**SONJA K. NORDSTROM**

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**Professional/Certifications/Positions:**

Heimdallr Services, L.L.C. – Owner/Trainer August 2015 – Present

Procuring and providing executive and family protection trained K9s.

Sonja's Dog Training, L.L.C. – Owner/Trainer January 2014 – present

Providing Nosework seminars/classes, in home private training, Protection K9s, and behavior modification.

Federal Bureau of Investigation, Special Agent – February 1991 to January 2014 (retired)

Assigned at Salt Lake City ('08 – '14,) Los Angeles ('96 – '08,) and Pittsburgh Division ('91 – '96)

Violent Crimes Investigations (Kidnap, Bank Robbery, Child Exploitation, White Collar, Terrorism)  
NCAVC Coordinator (Behavioral Analysis)

Innocent Images National Initiative Coordinator (Crimes Against Children / Child Exploitation)

Certified FBI General Police Instructor (obtained 1999)

FBI Evidence Response Team Los Angeles (K-9 Specialist Handler 1997 to 2007)

FBI Bureau Tactical Medic/EMT-B Expanded Scope (1997 – 2007)

National Registry EMT (2000 – 2006)

The Mitre Corporation, Technical Staff, Bedford, MA - June 1987 – February 1991

Providing technical liaison to Air Force for airborne and ground based long range radar systems:

Joint Stars, OTH-B, AWACS, Icelandic Air Defense System

Great Basin K-9 SAR Certified Cadaver Detection K9 Handler/Trainer (April 2011 to present)

Tri-State K9 Evaluator (April 2011 to present)

United Kennel Club Nosework Judge – Certifying Official/Hide Official #UKC 7174 (January 2014 – present)

Detector Dog Trainer Certification (Narcotics/EOD) - State of Indiana/Vohneliche Kennels (obtained 2003)

CA Office of Emergency Services Cadaver Dog Evaluator/Tester (1999 to 2007)

CARDA Search K-9 Evaluator/Tester - Live, Water, and Human Remains Detection (1999 to 2007)

CARDA Certified Handler Wilderness/Water/Human Remains Detection (February 1998 - October 2008)

Past Secretary Los Angeles County Police Canine Association (2001 - 2007)

**Education:**

University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA – Bachelor of Science Electrical Engineering graduate 1987

University of Indiana, Bloomington, IN – Violin Performance Bachelor of Science Major 1981-1984

**Publications and Commendations:**

Recipient of U.S. Attorney's Office Case Agent Investigative Excellence Awards 2002 and 2014

"Splash into Summer" article published in The Companion Animal Magazine

"A Priceless Black Pup" article published in The Companion Animal Magazine

"Search Dogs Working Mudslides" article published in The Companion Animal Magazine

"Nose Work and Nosework" article published by Best in Show Daily

"Overlapping Scent Source" article published in American Working Dogs Magazine

"La Conchita K9 Response" article published in American Working Dogs Magazine

Commendation for assisting the Department of the Coroner of Los Angeles County in the development of their HRD Canine Program and training of their HRD Canine November 2007

**Consults/ Testimony:**

K-9 Consultation for television programs "Criminal Minds," "The Shield," and "Providence"  
Featured on Eukanuba National Championship/Animal Planet as SAR K-9 expert 2002  
Featured with K-9 Nikko in German Shepherd Dog Magazine 2002  
Testified re K-9 Nikko find during kidnap/quadruple homicide death penalty trial re Cary Stayner  
Testified re K-9 Drago finds during kidnap/double homicide trial re Benjamin Frandsen

**Police and SAR K-9 Trainer/Instructor/Lecture Experience:**

Great Basin K-9 SAR - UT  
(Training Officer, December 2011 – present)  
Canines with a Cause and Friends of Animals volunteer trainer - Park City, UT  
(Volunteer trainer providing companion dogs for Veterans - September 2010 to January 2011)  
California P.O.S.T Human Remains Detection (HRD) K-9 Course, Newhall, CA  
(Developed, Implemented, and Trainer - April 2007 and March 2004 - 40 hours each)  
Advanced K-9 Handlers Training/Detection - Los Angeles County Police Canine Association Seminar  
(Trainer - May 2002, 2003, 2005, 2006 / Asst. Trainer 2001 - 24 hours each year)  
"Drills for the Air Scent SAR Dog" and "HRD K-9 Handler Skills" - SAR City Conference, Barstow, CA  
(Trainer - October 2006)  
"Use of HRD K9s" at Buried Body Skeletal Recovery Workshop, Ontario, CA  
(Lecture and K9 Demonstration - November 2006)  
Provided training to LAPD/LAX EOD K-9 Unit re Refind Indication - Los Angeles, CA  
(Trainer - December 2005)  
Imprinting K-9 on Cadaver Scent - SAR City, Barstow, CA  
(Trainer and lecture - October 2000, 2005)  
"Evidentiary Considerations for the Volunteer Cadaver Dog Handler" - SAR City, Barstow, CA  
(Lecture - October 2000 and 2005)  
Human Remains Detection (HRD) K-9 Handler School, Vohneliche Kennel, Denver, IN  
(Trainer - April 2004 and June 2005)  
FBI SWAT Regional Training, High Sierra Exercise, Kirkwood, CA, K-9 pursuit training  
(Instructor - 2000, 2001, 2002 - 36 hour exercise each year)  
Advanced Narcotics K-9 Training - Los Angeles County Police Canine Association, Burbank, CA  
(Assistant Trainer - May 2001 - 24 hours)  
"Utilization of Cadaver Detection Dogs" - FBI NCAVC Violent Crime Analysis, Los Angeles, CA  
(August 2000, August 2001 - lecture)  
"Evidence Awareness for Cadaver Dog Handlers" - CARDA Lecture Training, Pt. Mugu, CA  
(December 1999 - lecture)  
"Use of Cadaver Detection Dogs" - LA County Department of Coroner, West Coast Seminar, N. Hollywood, CA  
(November 1999 - lecture)

**K-9 /Emergency Responder Courses, Training, and Symposia Attended/Completed:**

Tactical Canine Casualty Care – VETTAC – S. Jordan, UT (May 2015 – 16 hours)  
K-9 Search – BORSTAR Roy Lopez – Kamas, UT (May 2015 – 22 hours)  
Understanding Canine Olfaction – Fred Helfers – Salt Lake City, UT (May 2015 – 8 hours)  
FEMA ICS-100, ICS-200, NIMS-700, NRF-800, Bloodborne Pathogens (December 2014)  
Forensic Anthropology Bone Identification – Anitra Sapula – Elko, NV (October 2014 – 8 hours)  
Canine Search Specialist Training Course Disaster K-9 Rubble – CSST – Elko, NV (October 2014 – 16 hours)  
United Nosework Judge’s Clinic, Seminar, and Trial – Karen Shivers – Red Lodge, MT (March 2014 – 24 hours)  
Human Remains Detection Seminar – ASCT Aycock – Elko, NV (September 2012 – 24 hours)  
Land Navigation/Mantracking – Camp Williams w/FBI ERT (August 2012 – 16 hours)  
K-9 Water Search Practical and Theory - Janet Wilts - East Canyon, UT (June 2012 - 24 hours)  
K-9 Neuroscience/Human Remains Detection Seminar - ASCT Aycock - Elko, NV (April 2011 - 30 hours)  
Detection K-9 seminar - Randy Hare - Alpha K-9 Training- Cody, WY (March 2006 and October 2010 - 24 hours each)  
Train the Trainer seminar - Brenda Aloff at Jenners Run, CO (August 2010 - 32 hours)

**K-9 Courses, Training, and Symposia Attended (continued):**

NAPWDA Human Remains Detection Workshop - Blackfoot, ID (June 2010 - 32 hours)  
 Mondio Ringsport seminar - Joachim Dovat - Las Vegas, NV (January 2010 - 8 hours)  
 Mondio Ringsport seminar - Michael Ellis - Bluffdale, UT (October 2008 - 16 hours)  
 French Ringsport seminar - Ivan Balabanov - Bluffdale, UT (July 2008 - 16 hours)  
 Human Remains Detection seminar - Janet Wilts - Ogden, UT (February 2008 - 16 hours)  
 Schutzhund workshop - Michael Ellis - Los Alamos, NM (June 2007 - 8 hours)  
 NAPWDA Human Remains Detection Workshop/Certification - Albuquerque, NM (June 2007 - 32 hours)  
 Schutzhund workshop - Howie Rodriguez - Acton, CA (February 2007 - 8 hours)  
 Human Remains Detection "Dig/Dog/Dive" - FBI Tennessee (June 2006 - 24 hours)  
 Advanced Cadaver Dog seminar - SARDOC/Bill Dotson (July 2005 - 20 hours)  
 Detector K-9 Trainer/Instructor Recertification - Vohneliche Kennels (October 2003 and June 2005 - 40 hours each)  
 USPCA Annual National Detector Dog Conference, Georgetown, Texas (March 2005 - 32 hours)  
 K-9 Odor Imprinting Trainer's Course - Vohneliche Kennels (September 2003 - 80 hours)  
 California Narcotic Canine Association K-9 Detection - Burbank, CA (January 2003 - 24 hours)  
 K-9 Basic under CA P.O.S.T. K-9 Certified Trainer - Burbank, CA (Sept. 2002 - March 2003 - 300 hours)  
 Canine Solution International (CSI) Human Remains Detection, Ontario, CA (March 2001 - 24 hours)  
 California Narcotic Canine Association K-9 Drug Detection, Burbank, CA (January 2001, January 2003 - 24 hours)  
 LASD Search Dog seminar 2000, Santa Clarita, CA (March 2000 - 24 hours)  
 International Rescue Dog Training, Geneva, Switzerland (June 1999 - 64 hours)  
 Cadaver Dog Detection Course, Neville Sharpe, Bakersfield, CA (October 1998 - 48 hours)  
 FBI Evidence Response Team Body Recovery School, FBI Academy Quantico (40 hours)  
 SAR (Search and Rescue) City Seminar, Barstow, CA (October 1997, 1998, 2000 - 16 hours each)  
 K-9 Basic under CA P.O.S.T. K-9 Certified Trainer - Burbank, CA (May 1997 - January 1998 - 500 hours)  
 FEMA US&R/Pennsylvania, Disaster K-9 Training, Philadelphia, PA (September 1995 - 16 hours)  
 International Search and Rescue Dog Symposium, Boulder, CO (June 1995 - 80 hours)

**Maintenance training groups/trainers:**

Search and Rescue/HRD - 2009 - present - Great Basin SAR K-9, UT  
 French and Mondio Ringsport - 2008 - 2010 - Utah Protection Sport/Anthem K-9, UT  
 Schutzhund 2005 - 2007 - Southwest Working Dog Association, CA  
 Police K-9/HRD 1997 - 2007 - Los Angeles County Police Canine Association, CA  
 Currency Detection - 2000-2002 - U.S. Customs Los Angeles, CA  
 SAR/HRD 1996 - 2007 - California Rescue Dog Association, CA  
 SAR 1996 - 1999 - Brian Lee of www.wayofthedog.com, CA  
 SAR 1996 - 1999 - Sue Chipperton of Studio Animal Services, CA  
 SAR/FEMA 1995 - 1996 - Robert and Marge Sarver - Allegheny County, PA

**K-9 Organization Affiliations:**

International Police Work Dog Association – 2012 to present  
 Great Basin SAR K-9 (Utah) - 2009 to present  
 Tri-State K-9 SAR – 2010 to present  
 US Mondioring Association 2009 to 2012  
 North American Ring Sport Association - 2008 to 2012  
 Utah Protection Sport K-9 - 2007 to 2012  
 Southwest Working Dog Association (Schutzhund/Acton, CA) - 2006 through 2007  
 USA Schutzhund - 2006 through 2008  
 Los Angeles County Police Canine Association - 1997 to 2008 (Secretary 2000 through 2006)  
 California Rescue Dog Association (CARD A) - 1996 through 2008  
 California Office of Emergency Services (OES) Cadaver Dog Resource - 1998 through 2008  
 NCAVC Adam Group HRD K-9 Resource - 2005 through 2007  
 North American Police Work Dog Association/NAPWDA (2006)  
 United States Police Canine Association/USPCA (2005)  
 National Narcotic Detector Dog Association/NNDDA (2005, 2007)  
 American Working Dog (2003, 2004)  
 California Narcotic Canine Association (2001, 2003)  
 Allegheny County Canine Team, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (1995)

**K-9 Accomplishments and Noteworthy Deployments:****Heimdallr's Alrek "Rekker"** (Dutch Shepherd UKC P572-582 born March 2008 - HRD certified April 2011)

## Certifications/Titles:

- Tri-State Water Search (Shore) Certification (July 2012 - present)
- Tri-State Cadaver Detection K-9 Certification (April 2011 - present)
- 2010 Splash Dogs Pro Division Champion 1<sup>st</sup> Place - November 2010
- FrR Brevet earned February 2010 (99.4/100 pts)
- FrR CSAU Excellent Rating July 2009
- Competed in 2010 Mondio Ring Nationals (95% protection)
- Notable HRD searches with K-9 Rekker (December 2011 – present)
- July 2015 Elko, NV, cold case homicide/ clandestine grave 3 years (recovery TBD)
- April 2014 Pleasant Grove, UT (K-9 Rekker pinpointed location of fetus stored in garage 10+ years)
- November 2013 Utah County, UT (K-9 Rekker odor indication from 1 mile away led to recovery)
- June 2013/2014 1 week deployments w/History Flight in Normandy, France for WWII MIAs (recoveries TBD)
- June 2013 1 week deployment w/History Flight in Germany for WWII MIAs (recoveries TBD)
- April 2013 Preston, ID (Train derailment/human remains located by K9)
- April 2013 Utah Lake, UT (victim recovered in area indicated by K9s)

**Vrijheid's Brigita Kikki** (Dutch Shepherd UKC 450-318 born May 2005 - HRD certified September 2006)

## Certifications/Titles:

- Tri-State Water Search (Open Water and Shore) Certification (July 2012 to present)
- Tri-State Cadaver Detection K-9 Certification (November 2012 – December 2014/medical out)
- NAPWDA HRD Cadaver Detection Certification (June 2007)
- CA OES/CARDA HRD/Cadaver Detection Certification (September 2006 to October 2008)
- French Ring I earned February 2010 (190.4/200 pts. 2<sup>nd</sup> leg)
- Mondio Ring I (first leg earned at 2010 Nationals with 98.3% protection/place 5/23 competitors)
- Schutzhund A earned November 2007 (High in Trial obedience)
- AKC Canine Good Citizen
- Federal Bureau of Investigation Los Angeles Evidence Response Team Resource
- Notable HRD searches with K-9 Kikki (September 2006 to June 2007, November 2012 - present)
- April 2013 Preston, ID (Train derailment/human remains located by K9)
- April 2013 Utah Lake, UT (victim recovered in area indicated by K9s)

**Drago Jager von de Ziel** (Dutch Shepherd UKC 572-538 born February 2002 - HRD certified March 2003)

Completed ~ 300 hours of K-9 basic training under direction of CA P.O.S.T. K-9 Trainer/Handler

## Certifications/Titles:

- United Nosework PT2, ANC, NNV (March 2014, June 2014)
- Tri-State Cadaver Detection K-9 Certification (April 2013 – May 2015/medical out)
- NNDDA HRD/Cadaver Detection K-9 Drago (March 2005, June 2007)
- USPCA HRD/Cadaver Detection K-9 Drago (March 2005)
- CA OES/CARDA HRD/Cadaver detection K-9 Drago (March 2003 through October 2008)
- CARDA Water cadaver detection K-9 Drago (May 2006 to through May 2008)
- Schutzhund BH (February 2007)
- 2005 USPCA National Detector Dog Trial - Human Remains Detection 3<sup>rd</sup> place
- Federal Bureau of Investigation Los Angeles Evidence Response Team Resource
- Notable HRD searches with K-9 Drago (January 2003 to May 2015)
- June 2006 Mexico City, MX (infant homicide investigation)
- August 2005 Mojave, Kern County, CA (1 suicide victim located by K9 after 3 months missing)
- January 2005 La Conchita Mudslide, CA (Assist re 5 bodies recovered)
- July 2004 Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (3 week deployment)
- January 2004 Colton, CA (2 bodies indicated by K9 at ~5' depth and under concrete after 5 years)
- December 2003 Waterman Canyon Mudslide, CA (Human remains located by K9)
- December 2003 Arcadia, CA, (Human remains bones located by K9)
- December 2003 Azusa Canyon, CA (Human remains bones located by K9)
- September 2003 Afton Canyon, CA (2 bodies indicated by K9, ~4' depth, 10 months, ~40 acre search area)
- February 2002 Mexicali, MX (confirmed residual grave ~6' depth indicated by K9)

**K-9 Accomplishments and Noteworthy Deployments (continued):**

**Nikko** (German Shepherd born August 1996, deceased August 2002)

Completed ~500 hours of K-9 basic training under direction of CA P.O.S.T. K-9 Trainer/Handler  
Certifications:

CA OES/ CARDA HRD/Cadaver detection K-9 Nikko (November 1998 to August 2002)

CARDA Water cadaver detection K-9 Nikko (August 1998 to August 2000)

CARDA Search and Rescue K-9 Nikko (February 1998 to August 2002)

U.S. Currency detection K-9 Nikko (October 1999 to August 2002)

Federal Bureau of Investigation Los Angeles Evidence Response Team Resource

Notable HRD searches with K-9 Nikko (~500 field hours - February 1998 - August 2002)

March 2002 New Melones Reservoir (2 bodies indicated at 300' + water depth by K9)

March, June 2002 Portland, OR (Serial kidnap/homicide investigation)

September 2001 9/11 Pentagon (~75 human remains located by K9 - 7 day deployment)

August 2001 Fire Scene, Palomar Hotel Apartments, Los Angeles, CA

April 2001 Idyllwild, CA (victim Ben Ackley indicated by K9 at 4' depth, 1 month buried)

March 1999 Yosemite Tourist Kidnappings (Victim Julie Sund located by K9)