

People & Dogs Who Help the Environment

| By WENDY NEWELL |

Every day we can see the effects of climate change caused by Earth's inhabitants. As world leaders and scientists look for ways to slow, stop and reverse the damage being done, we found three cool dog people who teach us how dog owners and their pups can help in the fight.



Dio (left) sniffs out orca poop, which helps researchers understand how to help the endangered killer whale; Alli (right) located Canada's "Precious Frog," Canada's most endangered amphibian.

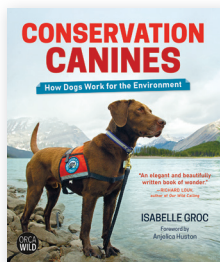
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Isabelle Groc: The Conservation Canines' Storyteller



Isabelle Groc was driven from a young age to use the power of images to document environmental issues. It wasn't until a few years ago, while she was working with a talented pup, Alli, from the organization **Conservation Canines**, that she turned her talents to show how dogs have a unique talent to help. Isabelle watched as Alli located Canada's most endangered amphibian, the "Precious Frog," allowing biologists to understand their habitat and reduce the threats they face.

Conservation Canines use scat detection dogs for non-invasive monitoring of multiple species simultaneously across large areas. Depending on their training, they can detect the scent of



scat, noxious weeds and plants, salamanders and more. The talented pups can search tough terrain quickly and more accurately than a human.

"I became fascinated with what those dedicated canines could do, and I wanted to tell their stories," Isabelle explains. "Dogs can be trained to sniff out just about anything, and our imagination is perhaps the only limit when it comes to potential tasks for these extraordinary canines."

Benny is another pup Isabelle saw at work. Benny and his talented nose help wildlife officers find illegally trafficked animal products like elephant ivory, rhino horns and shark fins. His partner, Detective Lauren Wendt of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, gives the signal, "Find it," and that's exactly what Benny does!

Isabelle also joined Dio and his handler, Collette Yee, on a boat in the Salish Sea (a marginal sea of the Pacific Ocean located in the Canadian province of British Columbia and the U.S. state of Washington), where Dio helped researchers find floating orca poop. His keen sniffer and impeccable communication skills allowed him to

guide the humans to the specimens before they sank. The recovered scat helps scientists understand the endangered killer whale population and how to help them.

Isabelle shares the stories of these dogs and their work in her book, **Conservation Canines: How Dogs Work for the Environment** (\$24.95; amazon.com). She strongly believes that "Conservation Canines also give us the important message that we can do our part to protect our planet's biodiversity. Dogs make the world better and can inspire us to do so, too."

Rose Seemann: The Poop Loop Environmentalist



It was during a lunch break one day in a local park that Rose Seemann became consciously aware of the amount of dog

poop that was being tossed into the garbage and eventually pushed to landfills. Since no one else was doing anything about the waste, she decided she would take steps to get and keep dog poop in a useful, safe and

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