



Katherine Heselton is a licensed Private Investigator in several states as well as the Owner of *Merrill's Detector Dog Services*. Katherine has been training dogs for more than 15 years. She started out training HRD (Human Remains Detection) dogs with people from the Maine Warden Service and it quickly grew to add K9's to help Police departments with narcotics and explosive detection. Katherine has served overseas on a contract called "*No Soldier Left Behind*" with an HRD dog as well as searched all over the US and many countries to recover bodies. Presently Merrills Detector Dogs has dogs servicing Cruise Ships, Arena's, Schools, Construction Sites and a wide variety of other businesses and events. Katherine works both an Explosive Detection Dog for the American Airlines Arena as well as a Narcotics dog at times for a very large Federal Construction site. She continues to assist and donate her time to Law Enforcement agencies on a case by case basis for missing person's cases. Kathy can be contacted at: kathy@merrillsinvestigations.com

USE OF CANINES IN INVESTIGATIONS

The use of K9's to assist Private Investigators can be anything from homicides and missing persons to narcotics use and distribution. Private Investigators are not bound by jurisdictional laws as Police Departments are and this gives Private Investigators an edge when working on cases.

The importance with any case is that you use a National Certified K9 Team. Kathy will discuss the process of becoming a certified team where you can find out if the teams have met the criteria. There are a lot of SAR Teams (Search and Rescue) across the country and will come in and want to help But you have to be mindful of who and what you use. Merrills K9 Teams are National Law Enforcement Certified Teams and usually hold several certifications. She will discuss the importance use of these teams due to the cases are bound to have the K9 Handler testify in Court. She will also discuss the importance in documentation of training records and the different types of searches.