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Site Map

- [Home](#)
- [Local](#)
- [National](#)
- [World](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Weather](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Medical](#)
- [Help Me](#)
- [Howard](#)
- [Features](#)
- [eUpdate](#)
- [Video](#)
- [Buy Books](#)
- [News Team](#)
- [Programs](#)
- [Contact](#)
- [Community](#)
- [Events](#)
- [Sales](#)
- [Jobs](#)

## 7 News Special Report



### Breaking The Mold

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- [Features](#)
- [7 News Special Report](#)
- [Breaking The Mold](#)
- [Online version](#)
- [Printable version](#)
- [E-mail this story to](#)

*We've all seen those amazing dogs that can sniff out drugs or explosives. But now those "S" are providing a new kind of protection. We'll shows you how these special canines - trained Florida - are finding the fungus and - "Breaking The Mold".*

(WSVN) -- There's nothing pretty about mold.

In a petri dish.

In our schools.

Or - in our homes.

"Let's go to work..."

But dog trainer Bill Whitstine has found a silver lining to the ugly stuff.

The former fire marshall who started working with arson dogs --- now trains dogs to sniff ou

He says, "We have a saying - cocaine or peanut butter - they can find it."

Hunter is being trained at Whitstine's Florida Canine Academy outside of Clearwater.

"That's it - show me."

On the training wheel - plastic containers of common kitchen items - and one with mold.

"Show me - good dog!"

When they find mold, the dogs are taught to sit and point with their noses.

"We don't have X-Ray eyes so we can't see inside walls. But the dogs have X-Ray noses if they can sniff inside the walls to tell us what's behind there."

"Good boy!"

"In addition to a keen sense of smell, the mold dogs have something else in common. They

  
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a-ways. Their original owners didn't want them and they ended up here at the North Pinella Society."

"Good morning, good morning....you got any dogs today?"

And Whitstine finds his mold dogs at the Humane Society.

It's where he found his personal pet - Petey.

Bill says, "He's got two speeds - dead asleep and full throttle."

Petey is an accomplished mold dog - and a fellow who will work for food and love.

"You show me, show me, show me..good boy!"

When Whitstine is at the Humane Society - he says he looks for behavior that might have gotten in trouble -too much energy - running away or digging up the yard.

"Hi puppy..."

He says that tells him this is a dog that needs a job to keep him busy.

Bill says, "In a nutshell, I'm looking for a very happy-go-lucky dog."

It's a description that fits Lucky to a T.

Bill adds, "He was at a pound where they put dogs to sleep and somebody adopted him and brought him to the Humane Society."

Now Lucky is about to graduate and move to Montana where he will go to work and go home to live - with the owners of a home inspection company.

Bill says, "In some states already you have to have a mold inspection and that probably will be throughout the United States."

It takes 600 to a thousand hours to train a mold dog and twelve thousand five hundred dollars one.

Bill says, "They become part of the family, just like a police dog or arson dog."

The dogs are certified on a regular basis so that if need be - their findings will stand up in court.

"Come on baby..."

Savannah is Whitstine's latest save.

In a matter of months - she will go from what many would consider a worthless mutt...to a valued dog".

"Let's go home. Let's get out of this place."

Clearly - she's afraid and maybe she's been abused...but that's all about to change.

Bill says, "I know it's been a hard life so far, but we're gonna change all that."

She'll learn - one more way to be man's best friend.

The Florida Canine Academy says it has offered to help Broward County Schools with mold for free.

So far - it says - there's been no response to the offer.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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