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Dog Sniffs Out Mold

LAST UPDATE: 5/7/2003 12:58:26 PM

Posted By: [Jim Forsyth](#)

Dogs have been trained to sniff out drugs, explosives, and weapons, and now animal technology has gone one step further.

Max, a one year old border collie, is believed to be the first dog in the state trained to sniff out mold. Max will be demonstrated at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine Thursday.

Max has received 1,000 hours of training in his new specialty, which will be displayed Thursday morning at the College of Veterinary Medicine in College Station. The training was provided by legendary dog trainer Bill Whitstine and his Florida based company, Mold Dog.

"The dog can detect and pinpoint mold," company spokesman Toby Giezentanner said. "It's the newest and only technology on the market that can actually find specific areas of mold."

Giezentanner says a handful of similar mold sniffing dogs are in place in other states.

"It is difficult for us to comprehend how good a dog's nose is because there's nothing to compare it to," animal behaviorist Dr. Bonnie Beaver said. "If a human is able to detect one drop of a specific substance by smell in 25 barrels, dogs would be able to detect one drop in 25 million barrels."

Max's abilities are expected to come in handy in the business of home inspection and insurance. Texas has the worst mold problem of any state in the country. Mold claims totaled \$1 billion in 2001, and 70 percent of all mold claims nationally are filed in Texas.



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