

Finding a home takes time.



ajc.com | DeKalb/Rockdale | Dog trained to sniff out mold | The Atlanta Journal-Constitution: 5/15/03]

Dog trained to sniff out mold

By MARIAN DOZIER
For The Journal-Constitution

Toxic mold has become such big news lately that whole mold-fighting industries have sprung up around it -- remediation companies, trial lawyers and, now, Brandy, the certified mold-fighting dog.

Brandy is a year-old chocolate lab, and the sole canine detective thus far behind Elite Detection Dawgs, a 2-month-old company in Tucker founded by Brandy's owner, Bob Carter.

Carter says that between the two, they can find 18 species of mold spores anywhere they hide in residential and commercial buildings -- behind walls, underneath carpet, along crevices, on ceilings -- without the expense of tearing the structure apart or coming back time and again.

"The beauty . . . is she can find mold in hidden places that may be missed in a visual inspection or by other testing methods," Carter said. "This leads to lower abatement and remediation costs for the home and business owner, and less expensive claims for insurance companies."

Carter, whose background includes years of selling air and water filtration systems, said his research showed there is rising concern among health officials,

[•DeKalb/Rockdale community page](#)



RENEÉ HANNANS / Staff
Bob Carter uses a calibration wheel to train Brandy just before going into a house to seek mold. So far, Brandy is the sole sniffer for Carter's new company, Elite Detection Dawgs.



insurers and government regulators about toxic mold.

He saw a blurb somewhere about mold-detection dogs. They're trained much the same as pups taught to sniff out drugs, explosives and, in search-and-rescue operations, bodies. Carter had found his niche.

Brandy is part of a small but growing new wave of about a dozen certified mold-detection dogs across the country. She is the first in Georgia, according to Carter, who sits on the board of the International Dog Detection Association.

Brandy received 1,000 hours of training and has to pass a quarterly "sniff test" for recertification. Carter plans to add a second dog this summer.

The cost for Brandy's work varies, depending on the size of the structure and Carter's travel time. He charges a flat rate, plus the cost of any necessary sampling. He will work anywhere in the state.

For more information on Elite Detection Dawgs, call 770-939-9090 or go to www.elitedetectiondawgs.com.

Find this article at:

<http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/dekalb/0503/15dog.html>

Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.

Finding a home takes time.

