TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
College of Veterinary Medicine

Press Release

Mold Detection Dog

COLLEGE STATION -- Teaching a "mold dog" new tricks just might b
the answer for the Texas Insurance Industry's toxic mold crisis. Max,
border collie lab-mix and the first trained "mold detection dog" in Texa
and his owner, Eric Voss, both of Houston, will begin sniffing out mol
after Max's routine physical at Texas A&M University's College of
Veterinary Medicine on Thursday, May 8.

The one-year old super sniffer has received 1,000 hours of training o
mold detection, which explains the canine's abilities and his $12,500
tag. Max will demonstrate how he is trained to detect mold and the da
drill that keeps him sharp at 11 a.m. at Texas A&M University's Colleg
Veterinary Medicine.

"Dogs are used to detect bombs, narcotics, missing people, arson,
termites, and other scent driven targets," said Voss. "Detecting for to:
molds was a logical extension of their abilities."

Texas will be joining California, Florida, and other states in utilizing
canines to detect health-threatening molds. Dogs have the ability to
determine if mold exists within a structure, thus decreasing the costs
location and remediation.

The fact that dogs can find specific things by smell is proven, but how
they do it is less known.

"Dogs have an amazing ability to detect odors. In fact, they are so go
it that it is difficult for us to determine how accurate they are because
are limited in our ability to test what we can not yet comprehend," sai
Bonnie Beaver, professor of small animal medicine and surgery and a
board certified animal behaviorist.

"The area of the brain that deals with smells is much larger in dogs th
in humans. The result is that if humans are able to detect one drop of
specific substance by smell in 25 barrels, dogs would be able to dete
one drop in 25 million barrels."

Max and other mold detection dogs have a tremendous professional

challenge ahead of them. According to the Texas Coalition for Afford[...] Insurance Solutions, in 2001 70 percent of all mold claims filed natio[...] were filed in Texas, with the top five insurance companies seeing the[...] mold claims rise over 500 percent in the past year.

Texas leads the nation in both the number of mold insurance claims [...] mold-related lawsuits at a cost of over $1 billion to Texas insurance companies. With many Texas insurers making mold coverage an opt[...] the costs associated with finding and cleaning up mold in residential structures is being passed on to consumers. The use of mold detecti[...] dogs may help to decrease the expense of mold detection, once aga[...] proving that dog is man's best friend.

Photos Available:

High Resolution (2000 x 1600)
Low Resolution (800 x 640)
Dr. Bonnie Beaver, professor of small animal medicine and surgery and a board certified animal behaviorist at Texas A&M University's College of Veterinary Medicine performs a routine exam on Max.

High Resolution (2000 x 1600)
Low Resolution (800 x 640)
Max receives a treat for being a good patient from Dr. Bonnie Beaver, professor of small animal medicine and surgery and a board certified animal behaviorist at Texas A&M University's College of Veterinary Medicine while Max's owner, Eric Voss watches approvingly.

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