



# DISCOVERY DOGS

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## CANINE BED BUG DETECTION

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### **DISCOVERY FAQ**

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#### **What are the dogs names, and what kind of dogs are they?**

Daisy Mae, a Rat Terrier/Chihuahua mix. Midas, a American Standard Dachshund. Tater a Rat Terrier/Chihuahua mix.

#### **Who trains the dogs and how long does it take? I've heard that scent dogs need certifications?**

There are several facilities throughout the country that offer both training and certification. There are also many trainers that will train and sell scent detection dogs without certification. The dogs that are used by Discovery Dogs have been trained and certified through a process that requires approximately four months. The dogs do not actually need to be certified to perform this work but certification at least provides the customer some sense of comfort in knowing that the dog that arrives at their home or office has reached a level of acceptable performance by some governing body. With Discovery Dogs, that governing body is the World Detector Dog Organization. The practical reality of this type of work is that field training of the handler to know how to find bed bugs, with or without a dog, is very important. A blended and intellectual approach is the key to success in discovering bed bugs.

#### **How accurate is a bed bug dog at detecting bed bugs, if I have an inspection will I know for certain that I have them or not?**

Bed bug detection dogs have been tested at rates as high as 98% accuracy in academic environments.. There is no system that can be 100% accurate in detecting bed bugs and to attempt to state so would be misleading.

#### **Should I do anything to prepare for a canine bed bug inspection?**

We have several suggestions and guidelines to insure you receive a focussed and diligent inspection by both the handler and the accompanying dog. Please review our 'Pre-inspection Checklist' (available in the Documents area of our website).

#### **I have a pet, will this be a problem during a canine inspection?**

We request that pets be removed from the inspection location if possible, if it is not possible to take a pet off site, putting them into a bathroom for a short while is the next best thing. Remember a scent detection dog is still a dog. All animals in general are subject to detecting the presence of other animals.

#### **If there is a canine alert to bed bugs in my home, how will you eliminate them?**

We are not exterminators. We detect the presence of bed bugs and report to you our findings, however an exterminator's service may be necessary if bed bugs or evidence of bed bugs is found.

#### **I have a large office space that I need inspected. It has multiple cubicles and offices and takes up two floors in the building our company is located in. Can a space this size and how long will it take?**

In the interest of maximizing our canines effectiveness and alertness, we utilize a specific working formula to not exhaust any of the dogs. To do this we work in intervals of approximately one hour scan time, a few minutes of break time and then return to scanning. This gives the dogs an opportunity to rest, have a walk or tend to any other need. By working in this interval a canine team can continue for between four and six hours of steady work. How long it takes to scan commercial space will be governed by many factors inclusive of access to offices, layout of the floor itself, amount of cubicles vs. offices etc.

#### **Does your dog bark when he is alerting to bed bugs? I am concerned that if I have an alert the dog will make a lot of noise.**

Our dogs are trained to alert by sitting and additional body language that a handler will be attentive to. No barking.

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## **Can the dogs detect if my neighbor has bed bugs through my walls?**

Bed bugs will very often travel through electrical sockets and along wiring conduits, as well they can infest openings in baseboard molding and move under certain types of walls. Depending on the how air tight an area is that is being inspected by a dog, he/she may or may not be able to detect a problem on the other side of certain types of walls. If you are inspecting your apartment because you want to determine if your neighbor has bed bugs, it would not be advisable to rely on this approach to determine a problem in an apartment adjacent to your own.

## **How do I know that your dogs do not have bed bugs and are not carrying them into my home?**

Often times people think of bed bugs in the same fashion they think of fleas. Bed Bugs do not prefer to feed on moving animals because the feeding process requires the host to remain still for 3-5 minutes which is clearly not possible with our dogs while working. Whereas humans can carry a hitch hiking bed bug on their clothing, work gear, travel bags, laptop cases and any other place a bug can crawl into, dogs are not wearing clothes nor carrying bags.

## **I am about to move into an apartment, can I have it checked for bed bugs before I move?**

Absolutely. In addition you should question the management company or real estate agent involved in your move about previous problems, if any, in the apartment or building.

## **Can I have an inspection on my boat or plane?**

Yes. Canine teams can work in almost all environments that have human use. Boats, hotels, offices, apartments, houses as well as other living and use spaces.

## **How does the handler know if a dog is tracking a bed bug scent or my cat, or even the food crumbs I dropped from my toast?**

By observing a dogs body language and behavioral communication, our handlers are trained to easily know such differences. Each of our handlers have performed hundreds of inspections and are greatly capable of 'reading' their canine partner. Additionally, our dogs will not alert to food or other animals.

## **How do you know your dogs abilities to find bed bugs are 'up to speed'?**

We do continual training several times a week to keep their noses and skills sharp.

## **If I want to see a demonstration of the canine's ability to detect the scent of bed bugs, can this be arranged?**

Yes. At your request we can do a demonstration prior to doing an inspection at your site. Realize that in order to do so we will be carrying our training material consisting of live bed bugs in sealed vials. Although the bed bugs are secured within the vial, we do not do demonstrations unless requested for the simple reason that some individuals are not comfortable with live bed bugs being carried onto their inspection site. If you do want validation of a canine's scenting ability but feel apprehensive, realize we would not be carrying them ourselves if such a thing was not safe.

## **I am an animal lover and although I know that dogs have a remarkable sense of smell I am concerned with how much a work dog works. I have heard that some canine search dogs live in cages and are only taken out to perform their duties. How do I feel good in clear conscience about a dog being used to do this kind of job?**

Dogs are natural hunters. When scent detection dogs are searching for bed bugs they are doing something they enjoy, hunting. Our dogs also live at home with the President of Discovery Dogs and when not working are absolutely "man's best friends". When the dogs are working extensive square footage sites, they are rested once per hour and may even have some play time :)