

“INSPECTOR KODY” - CANADA’S FIRST TERMITE DETECTING DOG IS NOW ONE OF ONLY TWO BED BUG DETECTING DOGS IN THE WORLD.

Hotels, Motels, Hospitals, Long Term Health Care Facilities, Hostels and Homeowners can now benefit from the extremely accurate detection of bed bugs that only a dog can offer.

“By contracting the services of Purity’s K-9 Bed Bug detection team, institutions can accurately locate and treat all infested areas and can say that they have done their Due Diligence”

TORONTO - Vaughan based Purity Pest Control Limited today introduced the newest service provided by “Inspector Kody”. Not only is he Canada’s first and only highly trained termite detecting dog, but he is one of only two Bed Bug detecting dogs in the world. Kody demonstrates the latest technique and international trend for finding Bed Bugs in institutions and homes.

“A trained pest management professional can only detect visible signs of Bed Bugs in a room but to check if there is activity behind walls, baseboards or under carpets, the room would have to be stripped down and baseboards pulled away from the walls. Due to a dogs keen sense of smell, Inspector Kody can detect Bed Bugs behind walls thus making his inspection a more thorough and much more accurate one,” said Michael Goldman, President of Purity Pest Control Ltd. and Common Scents Solutions, who owns Kody. “More accurate detection means that if there is Bed Bug activity, Kody will alert us to it and control measures can begin. In the case of Hotels, if a law suite is initiated by someone allegedly bitten in one of their rooms, The hotel management can say that they have gone the extra mile by bringing in a K-9 unit and have done their due diligence to ensure their guests are in a pest free environment. The last thing hotels need is bad publicity”

In Canada, dogs have been successfully used by the military and law enforcement agencies to locate firearms, ammunition, explosives, narcotics, missing persons and accelerants used in suspected arson cases. The same training used for these purposes is now being used to train dogs to search for bed bugs and termites. Kody can smell through walls, floors and even underground - long before humans can see any visible signs. Kody can crawl into tight spaces that human inspectors cannot. Early detection can save not only human discomfort from bites but can also avert a potential law suite by detecting and treating hot spots before the damage is done.

How Does “Inspector Kody” Do His Work?

A dog must be correctly trained, led and interpreted. Once the dog has familiarized itself with the structure, the professionally trained handler guides the dog with special instructions on where to search. The handler observes and interprets his dogs behaviour. Once the target insect is located, the dog performs what’s called a “passive alert”, where he will sit and point to the infested area.

Who are the main players?

The Common Scents Inspection Team consists of 3 key players:

“Inspector Kody”. Already trained in termite detection and numerous accurate inspections under his collar, Kody has now added the scent of bed bugs to his list of talents. Kody is one of only two dogs in the world that has learned this scent discrimination. Kody is re-certified annually by the Florida Canine Academy.

Michael Goldman. Michael owns Purity Pest Control Limited, a local GTA-based pest management company that now performs K-9 inspections for bed bugs as well as termites. He is re-certified annually by the Florida Canine Academy. Together, Kody and handler are internationally recognized.

Florida Canine Academy. Inspector Kody and Michael Goldman were both trained by Bill Whitstine, Certified Master Trainer and owner of the Florida Canine Academy. Bill received his Master Trainer certification from Maine State Police Canine Academy and Florida International University.

Science Behind The Nose... Amazingly Sensitive!

According to a report prepared by the Institute for Biological Detection Systems (IBDS) of Auburn University (Auburn, AL), dogs have the following capabilities:

Sensitivity: Documented limits of olfactory detection for the dog range from tens of parts per billion to 500 parts per trillion.

Discrimination: Dogs are extremely good at discriminating a target vapour from non-target vapours that are also present, even at relatively high concentrations of non-target odours.

Odour Signatures: When being trained to detect a substance, dogs learn to alert to one or two of its most abundant vapour compounds.

Multiple Odour Discriminations: Dogs can easily learn as many as ten odour discriminations.

Most householders of this generation have never seen a bed bug. Until recently, they also were a rarity among pest control professionals. Bed bug infestations were common in Canada before World War II. But with improvements in hygiene, and especially the widespread use of DDT during the 1940s and '50s, the bugs all but vanished. The pests remained prevalent, though, in other regions of the world including Asia, Africa, Central/South America and Europe. In recent years, bed bugs have also made a comeback in Canada and the U.S. They are increasingly being encountered in homes, apartments, hotels, motels, dormitories, shelters and modes of transport. International travel has undoubtedly contributed to the resurgence of bed bugs in this country. Changes in modern pest control practice - and less effective bed bug pesticides - are other factors suspected for the recurrence.

Adult bed bugs are about 1/4 inch long and reddish brown, with oval, flattened bodies. The immatures (nymphs) resemble the adults, but are smaller and somewhat lighter in colour. Bed bugs do not fly, but can move quickly over floors, walls, ceilings and other surfaces. Female bed bugs lay their eggs in secluded areas, depositing up to five a day and 500 during a lifetime. The eggs are tiny, whitish, and hard to see without magnification (individual eggs are about the size of a dust spec). When first laid, the eggs are sticky, causing them to adhere to substrates. Newly hatched nymphs are no bigger than a pinhead. As they grow, they molt (shed their skin) five times before reaching maturity. A blood meal is needed between each successive molt. Under favourable conditions (70 - 90° F), the bugs can complete development in as little as a month, producing three or more generations per year. Cool temperatures or limited access to a blood meal extends the development time. Bed bugs are very resilient. Nymphs can survive months without feeding and the adults for more than a year. Infestations therefore are unlikely to diminish by leaving premises unoccupied. Although *C. lectularius* prefers feeding on humans, it will also bite other warm-blooded animals, including pets.

Bed bugs are active mainly at night. During the daytime, they prefer to hide close to where people sleep. Their flattened bodies enable them to fit into tiny crevices - especially those associated with mattresses, box springs, bed frames, and headboards. Bed bugs do not have nests like ants or bees, but do tend to congregate in habitual hiding places.