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MOLD DOG NOW IN TRI-STATE

Mold claims have been creeping up in recent years. Insurers say they've paid out billions of dollars for cleanup and health problems associated with the more toxic strains. Modern building methods and materials create airtight structures that can be conducive to mold growth. The latest way to detect it in a building is to use specially trained dogs. Hunter is a year and a half old Border Collie-- a very special Border Collie, trained in the same way that bomb and gun detecting dogs are trained. His owner is Jim Moss of Moss Restoration. Moss says, "Dogs have natural instincts to hunt and look for things and that's how they survive when they're wolves, and what we've done is change that natural instinct so instead of hunting for squirrels and rabbits, he's hunting for mold." Such dogs have been used in Europe for years, but are new to the US. Cincinnati is one of only a hand-full of cities with such a dog, which can detect mold at a fraction of the cost of traditional lab tests. Moss says, "A basic home inspection for a house that's about 2500 square feet would be about \$300 and it depends on how much time is spent there." Moss says he was very skeptical initially about these mold-sniffing dogs, but after seeing how they had been trained, more than 600 hours, and seeing them work he says he became a believer. Interestingly, Hunter doesn't eat out of a bowl-- he only gets food after he finds mold during his daily training program. He's only been in Cincinnati three weeks and Moss Restoration is now starting to use him in area homes.

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