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Mold-Sniffing Dog

Dogs have been trained to sniff out drugs, explosives, and weapons but Texas A&M University has gone one step further.

Max, a 1-year-old border collie, is thought to be the first dog in the country trained to sniff out mold, reported WOAI-TV in San Antonio.

The dog has received 1,000 hours of training in his new specialty. "It is difficult for us to comprehend how good a dog's nose is because there's nothing to compare it to," animal behaviorist Dr. Bonnie Beaver said.

If a human were able to detect one drop of a specific substance by smell in 25 barrels, dogs would be able to detect one drop in 25 million barrels, according to Beaver.

Max's abilities are expected to come in handy in the business of home inspection and insurance. Texas has the worst mold problem of any state in the country, totaling \$700 million in 2001.

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