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Fla.: Canine Inspectors Sniff Out Mold

(May 2) -- Mold inspection has gone to the dogs in Florida. Home inspectors, mold inspectors, and remediators, among other professionals have enlisted the canines' sensitive noses to sniff out 18 different mold types.

The Florida Canine Academy's MoldDog subsidiary trains the animals; so far the company has sold 25 dogs. Academy owner Bill Whitstine says MoldDogs can save homeowners thousands of dollars in testing and demolition costs by alerting handlers to mold's presence.

However, the dogs' bark might be worse than their bite. David Kichula--owner of New Jersey's Air Consulting Services--insists that only experts that are thoroughly educated about buildings, plumbing systems, and moisture can accurately identify a mold infestation. Mold-detection dogs must be used in conjunction with expert--not merely a handler without industrial hygiene training.

Source: *Inman News Features* (04/30/03); Romero, Susan

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