

PestGuard Pest Control & K-9 Inspection

Canine Bed Bug Detection

PRESS RELEASE:

DATE: February 22nd, 2010



NEWS

CONTACT:

(613) 322-6192 Ottawa

info@pestguard.ca

Bedbug Inspector “Mylee” Completes 1000th Bedbug Inspection!

PestGuard Pest Control based in Ottawa, Ontario is pleased to announce their bedbug detection team recently completed their 1000th bedbug inspection.

Ottawa – Since launching their K-9 bedbug detection program in January 2009, “Mylee” a two year old beagle/jack russell mix trained for the detection of bedbugs has been quite the busy girl. Through scent detection “Mylee” is able to pinpoint the presence and location of bedbugs a valuable tool in eradicating these persistent little pests. The dogs are trained much like a bomb or drug detection dog. Bedbugs have a distinct odour and once the dog picks up on the odour she performs a “passive alert” where she will sit to indicate and point to the infested area.

Mr. Thomas and Wendy Roberts of Ottawa, Ontario were the recent recipients of “Mylee’s” 1000th bedbug inspection. After a trip overseas they were afraid they may have brought home some unwelcome souvenirs – BEDBUGS! “We stayed at a hotel in Europe and we were eaten alive on the last night of our stay”, said Mrs. Roberts. Her biggest fear was that she may have brought them home within her luggage or souvenirs so it was time to bring in the dogs. “After some internet research and learning more about bedbugs than I had ever planned on, the idea of a detection dog made sense to me, and I was relieved to find a company in Ottawa offering the service”, stated Mrs. Roberts. Fortunately for the Roberts family they were given the all clear as the dog checked their suitcases, belongings, and household items, and there were no indications the bedbugs had returned with them.

Patrick O’Hara co-owner of PestGuard pest control an Ottawa based pest control company is “Mylee’s” owner, handler, and best friend. “Mylee has been a great addition to our team and to my family. With an increase in bedbug related calls in the last few years we explored the



possibility of the use of the dogs and felt it would be a valuable tool in our fight against bedbugs”, said Mr. O’Hara. Over the past year PestGuard and their K-9 team have completed inspections for hotels, apartments, residential homes, and office spaces. “Even I have been surprised at the amount of calls we receive for bedbugs, with the addition of our detection team bedbugs have quickly become our niche in the industry and there is no more accurate tool for detection”, stated Mr. O’Hara.

In some instances it has saved them from doing unnecessary treatments where bedbugs were thought to be present but in fact were not, also minimizing the use of chemicals. If bedbugs can be detected in the early stages they are much easier to contain and eliminate. “If someone returns from a hotel and brings three bedbugs back in their luggage it can be next to impossible to find them with a visual inspection, the dogs however can locate a single bug or egg casing through scent detection , it’s like having x-ray vision”, says Mr.O’Hara.

In the case of hotels, some chains have started to do preventative inspections or “sweeps”. If someone alleges they were bitten in one of the rooms or worse case scenario they returned home with bedbugs, management can say they are performing due diligence with the assistance of the dogs. Bite symptoms can take several days to manifest, while some react immediately, others have little or no reaction at all. Someone staying in several hotels during travel may awake one morning with bite symptoms and they may have been the result of a stay at a hotel a few days prior, making it more difficult to determine the source of the bedbugs. It is good practice to inspect your hotel room bedding, mattress seams and boxspring before you settle in and unpack belongings. “I will certainly be inspecting my room when I travel, it’s not something I ever thought of before and we travel often, but now I know what to look for”, said Mrs. Roberts. “We were so relieved to know we had not brought these critters home with us, as much as I liked meeting Mylee and Patrick it’s an experience I would like to avoid in the future, but they can visit anytime”, joked Mrs. Roberts.

Some helpful websites regarding bedbugs are “thebedbugregistry.com”, a voluntary reporting site where people can report areas they have encountered bedbugs as well as “bedbugger.com” a valuable resource on bedbugs with information and forums for those looking for information or battling the bugs.

PestGuard Pest Control (613) 322-6192 Ottawa Region

Toll Free 1-800-864-2626

www.pestguard.ca