

## Nightly Business Report Transcript

07/31/03: Eliminating Household Mold Goes To The Dogs

SUSIE GHARIB: These days, homeland security forces use dogs for a lot of missions, including sniffing out hidden explosives and contraband drugs. Now, dogs are being used to help detect a different kind of hidden danger, not for the homeland, but for the home. Jeff Yastine reports.

JEFF YASTINE, NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT CORRESPONDENT: The black one on the left is Tootsie. The one on the right, Snickers. Their powerful snouts are trained for some serious canine detective work, looking for household mold. Green mold, black mold, it doesn't matter, they'll sniff it out inside walls and other household crevices. The insurance industry paid out about \$3 billion in mold claims last year and the mold spores have been blamed for everything from respiratory problems and allergies to building wood rot. But the dogs, with their sensitive sniffers, make finding that mold easy.

DAVID LESHNER, CO-OWNER, MOLD DETECTION SERVICE: And I'll tell you right now, I'll take one dog versus a whole team with equipment and I'll be able to tell you not only where the mold is, but work in probably one fifth of the time that it took them to find it.

YASTINE: The dogs are the paw's down favorite tool for finding mold in David Leshner's business, Mold Detection Service, operating in South Florida's booming housing market.

LESHNER: The dogs will tell you right where it is. They'll walk along the wall or the perimeter of a building sniffing. And as soon as they find it, they sit down. They're alerting you that there's mold in the area.

YASTINE: Homeowners like these mold dogs, too.

DAVID DRYKERMAN, HOMEOWNER: Well, you know, we do live in Florida, where humidity, mold type of buildup can be a problem. And, as you can see, we're expecting a baby. So, you know, we just wanted to make sure it was really as clean and...

RIKKE DRYKERMAN, HOMEOWNER: Mold-free.

D. DRYKERMAN: ...mold-free as possible, yes.

YASTINE: Other electromechanical devices determine what kind of mold and how much of it there is. And with mold related insurance claims rising fast in recent years, this is one business definitely in a growth market. Jeff Yastine, NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT, Coconut Grove, Florida.

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