

## Why Do We Use Dogs to Find Bed Bugs?

It's no secret that dogs evolved from wolves thousands of years ago. Man domesticated the wolf and over time bred dogs into the different breeds we have today. Dogs were also bred to perform certain tasks, as requested by their owner.

Dogs have been used in the two world wars. Their tasks included: running messages to the frontlines, dragging injured soldiers to safety, and many other duties. During World War II citizens of the United States donated their dog in support of the War. When the war ended the dog was returned to the owner.

The dog's role was expanded during the Viet Nam War. Dog were used at checkpoints, walking point on patrols, and sentry duty. Unfortunately, when the war ended none of the dogs came back to the United States. The dogs were left back in Viet Nam. The most popular dog breeds used in Viet Nam was the German Shepherd and Labrador Retriever.

In the Wars against Iraq and Afghanistan dogs were used in other ways, to include bomb and narcotics detection. Dogs were used to detect weapons and landmines buried in the road. Dogs are used for three reasons: their nose, speed in completing the task and they are trainable.

Dogs are also used by law enforcement agencies to assist in their duties. Duties such as, locating suspects in buildings, tracking suspects, locating missing children and adults, detection cadaver, narcotics, and explosives. They also perform dignitary searches and locate articles.

Dogs are also used by civilians to find or locate certain objects. There are many civilian search and Rescue Clubs or organizations. Another civilian job or dogs is locating bed bugs. This K-9 occupation is starting to become popular with exterminators and former K-9 handlers.

Why do we use dogs to detect bed bugs? Horses, goats, cats, and many other animals have four legs and a nose. Would you want a horse, cow, or a goat walking through your house? Could these animals perform a dedicated search for bed bugs? The answer is no. Here is why we use the dog. There are three major reasons why dogs are used to locate bed bugs. The first, they are faster than us. In most cases a dog with four legs will always run faster than the slower two- legged human. A second reason is the nose. Both dogs and humans have noses, and inside the nose are olfactory glands. Ours are the size of a postage stamp; a dog's olfactory glands are the size of a 8.5 by 11 sheet of paper. Plus, a dog can break down different odors. We can't, but they can differentiate between odors.

Dogs are also smaller than horses, cows and goats, so they can get into smaller areas. Bed bugs are very small; an adult bed bug can squeeze into your cellphone case. Bed bugs can also hide in your car. Try getting a horse in your Volkswagon GTI. Good Luck!!!!

Every day dogs are out searching or detecting something, could be narcotics, explosives, cadaver, carson, or bed bugs. A good properly trained dog can save money, detect the location or locations of what you are looking for, and do it much faster than we can.

"The Nose Knows"  
"En Perros Confidimus"