

Westchester Company Battles Suburban Bed Bug Invasion



There's a frightening invasion underway and the tiny invaders are seemingly everywhere --- from luxury hotels to college dorms to retail stores to your very own home.

Aug. 13, 2010 - [PRLog](#) -- There's a frightening invasion underway and the tiny invaders are seemingly everywhere --- from luxury hotels to college dorms to retail stores to your very own home.

Bed bugs, largely eradicated in the developed world in the early 1940s, are back with a vengeance. While recent headlines have focused on the growing bed bug infestation in New York City's apartments, retail stores and hotels, the small bloodsucking pests are finding a home in the northern suburbs.

Standing ready to combat this insidious assault is a Westchester company whose secret weapon is a one-year-old rescue dog named Trace.

Top Dog Scent Detection Inc. of Armonk combines 30 years of pest control experience with a highly trained bed bug detection team to accurately identify sites of bed bug activity. The family owned company's "green" approach to battling bed bugs seeks to minimize the expense and inconvenience of controlling and eliminating bed bugs from a home or business property.

"Everyone seems to think that bed bugs are just a city problem. But bed bugs are just as comfortable in a suburban home as a big city apartment building. We're finding there is a strong and growing market for our services in Westchester, Rockland and Putnam counties," said Marcia Tokson, who owns Top Dog Scent Detection with her husband Seth.

Top Dog Scent Detection is unique in that it only provides targeted detection services and does not handle bed bug treatments. "By being independent, we have no conflict of interest in targeting areas designated for treatment. As a result, there is lower treatment cost, less pesticide application and less time consumed in preparing for treatment," said Seth Tokson, who has more than 25 years experience in the pest control business.

Top Dog Scent Detection provides a written report for its clients and will recommend reputable pest control companies to handle the treatment. The company also provides guidelines for preparing for bed bug treatment that should be used in tandem with the recommendations from a pest control operator. Inspection

fees for private residence average \$375 for a 3-bedroom home. For entire apartment complexes the fees per unit range from \$20 to \$40.

The “top dog” at Top Dog Scent Detection is Trace, a lab/pointer mix who was rescued from an animal shelter and trained at the renowned Florida Canine Academy. Trace graduated with more than 800 hours of bed bug scent detection training. Seth Tokson, who is the senior dog handler for Top Dog, has spent many years training dogs in obedience and is certified by the Florida Canine Academy in Safety Harbor, Florida. Marcia, who has an MBA in marketing, is also a certified dog handler.

The company’s clients include owners of single-family homes, condominiums, apartment buildings, hotels, nursing homes, colleges, hospitals, retail stores, movie theaters and dry cleaners, to name a few. “As you can see from our client list, no one is safe from bed bugs. They’re everywhere,” said Seth Tokson. Because of the social stigma of having bed bugs, the company’s clients seek to remain anonymous. “No one wants to be associated with having bed bugs. But the reality is that bed bugs don’t discriminate. They will prey on the rich, the poor and everyone in between.”

The recent surge in bed bugs has been attributed to a number of factors including the lack of potent pesticides and the increased ease of international travel. Adult bed bugs, which are about the size of an apple seed, can move from one person’s belongings to another person’s belongings on plane rides, mass transit, and in movie theaters. The nymphs, which measure about one millimeter, are even more difficult to spot. While most people think of bed bugs as living in mattresses or couches, they will live in any crack or crevice where a business card can fit into which includes electrical outlets, picture frames and electronics.

Bed bugs are active mainly at night when they can feed unnoticed on their hosts. Bed bugs also have a unique ability to hide which means inspections must be more thorough than for other pests like cockroaches and mice. Bed bug bites vary in size and itchiness. In many cases, there are no visible signs of bites or bites may appear weeks after a person was bitten, which makes identifying and eradicating infestations difficult. And because bed bugs have not been around for so many years, some physicians are not accurately diagnosing the symptoms.

“Dealing with bed bugs can be a financially and emotionally draining experience. At Top Dog, we pride ourselves on providing highly professional and targeted inspection services that will help eradicate the infestation while minimizing costs and the disruption of your home or business,” said Seth Tokson.

For more information about Top Dog Scent Detection, visit <http://www.bed.bug.sleuth.com>

--- End ---

Source	Top Dog Scent Detection
City/Town	Briarcliff Manor
State/Province	New York
Zip	10510
Country	United States
Industry	Health , Family , Travel
Tags	Bed Bugs , Armonk , Bed Bug Dog , Scent Detection , Hotel Bed Bugs , Sanitation , Exterminator , Pest Control
Link	https://prlog.org/10858230



Scan this QR Code with your SmartPhone to-

- * Read this news online
- * Contact author
- * Bookmark or share online