



Canine Insect Detection Committee

October 23, 2013

7:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

Mark Sheperdigian, Chair
Tim Leatherman
Larry Bard
James Skinner
Sage Garvey
Robert Gallo

Lisa Gallo
Carla Wagner
Susan Hagberg
Gorgon Hagberg
Martin Overline
Gean Camps

Ted St. Amand
Stephen Dodge
J.F. Bonavich
Kirk Hayden
Bennett Jordan, NPMA
Jim Fredericks, NPMA

The Canine Insect Scent Detection Committee discussed a variety of topics, including:

Staff Update:

- Jim Fredericks welcomed the group and reported:
- Bennett Jordan joined NPMA staff on 1 July as Staff Entomologist/Research Scientist
- The NPMA Online Learning Center is being populated with new training courses frequently, in ACE Training and archived webinar videos.

Proposed New Language for the NPMA Bed Bug BMP

The group discussed the proposed addition of the statement: *"At a minimum, follow pesticide label instructions and veterinarian recommendations regarding re-entry periods for canine teams following pesticide applications."* The group suggested the addition of an additional statement such as: *"The decision to perform an inspection should be made based on the discretion of the handler based on safety concerns for the canine."* Staff will incorporate the language into the statement distribute to the committee for final consideration.

Ideas for Canine Related Research

The group discussed potential future research projects to be performed by researchers in the canine scent detection, veterinary and animal behavior fields. Ideas included:

- Effects of insecticide dusts on canine health and performance
- Epidemiological studies of canine health in insect scent detection dogs
- How long after death does a dead bug still smell like a bed bug
- How does temperature effect the health and performance of scent detection canines

- How does travel effect the performance of scent detection canines

Staff suggested that the best way to have canine research funded is to raise funds to be distributed through the Pest Management Foundation, the charitable organization affiliated with NPMA whose mission it is to fund research into topics affecting the structural pest management industry. Funds raised for a specific purpose (i.e. canine scent detection research) can be earmarked for specific projects.

NPMA Recognition of Certification Testing by Third Party Organizations

The group reconfirmed by consensus that NPMA should not offer an NPMA Certification for Canine Scent Detection Team. In order to help pest management firms decipher the NPMA Best Management Practices for Bed Bugs requirements for Canine Scent Detection certification however; NPMA should consider recognizing certification organizations that provide testing and certification services that are in line with the NPMA BMPs. These credentialing programs could be kept in a registry online or communicated to members upon request.

Regional Canine Scent Detection Training

The group discussed the need for regional training opportunities for handlers and canines. Most handlers are reluctant to travel with their canine to national training events, so regional training comprised of classroom, hands on and certification opportunities is a need. Staff agreed to bring the idea to NPMA leadership for consideration.

Ideas for Canine Related Industry Outreach

In addition to industry publications like PestWorld, PMP and PCT magazines, the committee would like to reach out through trade publications in affected market segments such as the hotel industry to educate consumers about canine scent detection as a method for bed bug detection.

The committee also discussed the need for a set of model training procedures that canine scent detection teams could use to maintain the effectiveness of their canine teams. This project can be tackled by the committee in the coming months.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:10 AM

Minutes prepared by: Jim Fredericks
29 October 2013