

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



DOG TEAM PROGRAM Annual Report

July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012

Pictured: San Diego Dog Team Jeremy Partch (not pictured) and his canine Friday conduct belt inspections targeting unmarked parcels containing agricultural product.

Purpose of Cooperative Agreement #11-8520-1165-CA

The purpose of cooperative agreement USDA #11-8520-1165-CA is to implement the use of the California Dog Teams to enhance inspection and surveillance activities related to plant products entering the State of California via parcel delivery facilities and airfreight terminals. This report is in fulfillment of USDA Cooperative Agreement #11-8520-1165-CA.

Work Plan Activities Performed by CDFA

CDFA distributed funds to County Agricultural Commissioners (CAC) for the purposes of continued training and maintenance of dogs and fulfilling Dog Team activities as outlined in the work plan. CDFA acted as the liaison between CAC and the National Detector Dog Training Center (NDDTC) and was responsible for communicating significant pest finds and smuggling information to USDA/SITC.

Work Plan Activities Performed by County Agricultural Commissioners

All California dog teams worked the full reporting period (July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012): Alameda (1 team), Contra Costa (2 teams), Fresno (1 team), Los Angeles (2 teams), Sacramento (1 team), San Bernardino (2 teams), San Diego (2 teams), San Joaquin (1 team), and Santa Clara (1 team).

The California Dog Teams were distributed as outlined below (**Table 1**).

TABLE 1: Distribution of CA Dog Teams

County	Area Covered
Alameda	Alameda County
Contra Costa Team #1	San Francisco Bay Area
Contra Costa Team #2	San Francisco Bay Area
Fresno	Fresno County
Los Angeles Team #1	Los Angeles
Los Angeles Team #2	Los Angeles
Sacramento	Sacramento Valley
San Bernardino Team #1	Inland Empire
San Bernardino Team #2	Inland Empire
San Diego Team #1	San Diego County
San Diego Team #2	San Diego County
San Joaquin	San Joaquin County
Santa Clara	South Bay Area

On December 5, 2011, Sacramento County canine Roxie, deployed to handler Jennifer Berger, was retired due to the medical condition Diabetes Insipidus. After a valid effort by handler and veterinarian to remedy canine Roxie's symptoms from affecting her work, CDFA requested an evaluation by the NDDTC of the canine's performance/medical summary and veterinary records/recommendation. The NDDTC determined canine Roxie should be retired from the California Dog Team Program due to the inability to consistently perform her work as an agricultural detector canine. The handler adopted Roxie and the NDDTC provided a replacement canine in January 2012.

County Agricultural Commissioners' Accomplishments:

The California Dog Teams have demonstrated that unmarked parcels present a high-risk pathway for harmful pests to enter California (**Table 2**). Between July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012, California Dog Teams alerted on 41,002 total marked and unmarked parcels containing agricultural products. Of the total alerts, 2,925 were unmarked parcels containing agricultural commodities (**Table 3**). A total of 124 pests were intercepted during the reporting period, which included 21 actionable A-rated pests and 103 actionable Q-rated pests (**Table 4**). Some of these interceptions involved multiple pest specimens in a single package. Additionally, due to the efforts of the California Dog Teams, 1,948 rejections were issued for violations of state and federal plant quarantine laws and regulations.

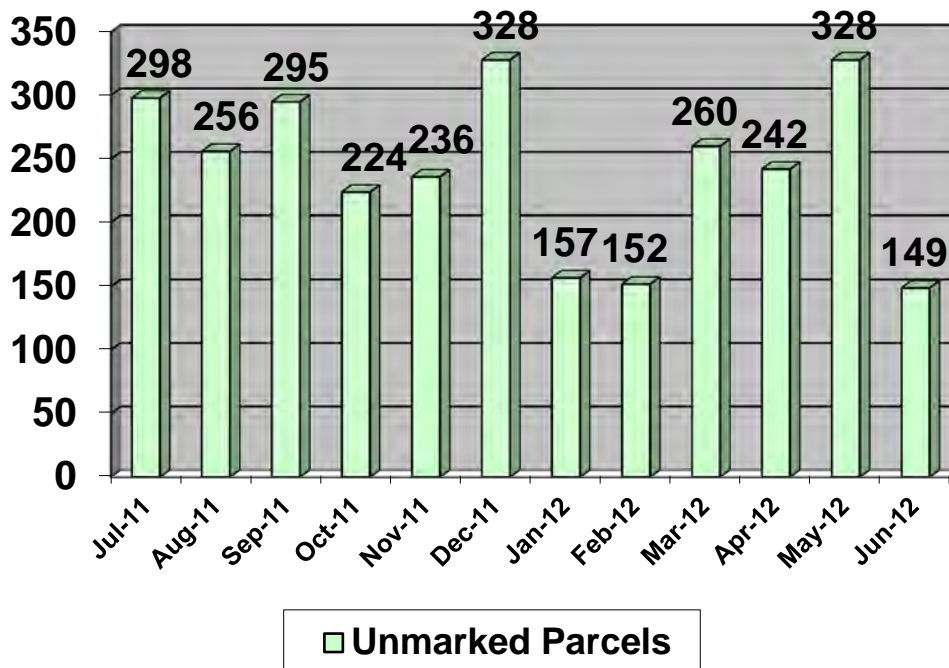
TABLE 2: CA Dog Teams -Parcels, Pests and Violations

Total Parcels Alerted on by Dog	41,002
Total Parcels Unmarked with Agricultural Commodities	2,925
Total A & Q Pests	124
Total Violations of Plant Quarantine Law and Regulations	1,948

Trends in Unmarked Parcels

During the reporting period (July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012), Dog Teams conducted inspections at a total of 123 facilities throughout the state. During that time, the number of unmarked parcels found to contain agricultural products were highest in the month of December and May; both months had a total of 328 reported unmarked parcels each month, with July having the second highest number of unmarked parcels found to contain agricultural products (298) (**Table 3**).

TABLE 3: Detections of Unmarked Parcels



Significant Pest Interceptions

The table below lists the number and type of actionable pests found as a result of the efforts of the California Dog Teams during the reporting period. Following the tables is a narrative of interesting finds during the reporting period.

TABLE 4: Significant Pests, A- and Q-Rated Interceptions
July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012

Number of Interceptions	Scientific Name	Common Name/ Notes	Rating	Origin
1	Acanthoscelides sp.	Seed Beetle	Q	unknown
1	Aleurotulus anthuricola	Anthurium Whitefly	Q	Hawaii
2	Aleyrodidae		Q	unknown
1	Alga	an alga	Q	Florida
2	Aonidiella orientalis	Oriental Scale	A	Florida
6	Aphididae	Nymphs only	Q	Hawaii
2	Aphididae		Q	unknown
1	Aphodius sp. or near	Dung Scarab Beetle	Q	unknown
1	Arctiidae	1st instar	Q	Florida
1	Asiothrix	pupae	Q	Hawaii
1	Aulacaspis yasumatsui	Cycad Aulacaspis Scale	Q	Hawaii
1	Ceroplastes sp.	Wax Scale	Q	unknown
1	Ceroplastes stellifer	Adult female	Q	Hawaii
1	Ceroplastes stellifer	Adult female	Q	unknown
1	Chionaspis sp.	Armored Scale	Q	Florida
1	Chrysodeixis eriosoma	Green Garden Looper	A	Hawaii
1	Cicadellidae	rare cicadellidae	Q	unknown
1	Coccidae	1st instar	Q	Florida
1	Coccus viridis	Green Scale	A	Hawaii
1	Curculionidae		Q	unknown
1	Diaspididae		Q	India
1	Diaspididae	immature male, alive	Q	Puerto Rico
1	Diaspididae	immature	Q	unknown
1	Drosophilidae	possible Zaprionus indianu	Q	Florida
1	Dysmicoccus boninsis	Sugarcane Mealybug	Q	Hawaii
4	Dysmicoccus grassii	Mealybug	A	Florida
1	Dysmicoccus neobrevipes	Gray Pineapple Mealybug	Q	Florida
1	Euwallacea sp.	Scolytid Beetle	Q	Hawaii
1	Fiorinia theae	Tea Scale	A	N. Carolina
1	Frankliniella invasor	Adult female	Q	Hawaii
1	Frankliniella schultzei	Cotton Bud Thrips	Q	unknown
1	Frankliniella sp.	Flower Thrips	Q	Hawaii
2	Fulgoroidae	nymph	Q	Hawaii

Number of Interceptions	Scientific Name	Common Name/ Notes	Rating	Origin
1	Gastropoda		Q	Hawaii
1	Gastropoda	exotic	Q	unknown
1	Geometridae		Q	Florida
1	Geometridae		Q	Hawaii
1	Geotomus pygmaeus	Burrowing Bug	Q	Hawaii
1	Graphocephala	coceinea or near	Q	unknown
1	Halysidota tessellaris	Pale Tussock Moth	A	unknown
1	Hemiberlesia sp.	Armored Scale	Q	Hawaii
1	Hemiberlesia sp.	Armored Scale	Q	Mexico
1	Hemiptera	Auchenorrhyncha	Q	unknown
1	Hymenoptera		Q	unknown
3	Insecta- Insect eggs	Insect eggs	Q	Florida
5	Insecta- Insect eggs	Insect eggs	Q	Hawaii
1	Insecta- Insect eggs	Insect eggs	Q	unknown
1	Lepidoptera	Egg (shell only)	Q	Hawaii
2	Maconellicoccus hirsutus	Mealybug	A	Florida
1	Maconellicoccus hirsutus	Mealybug	A	Puerto Rico
1	Maconellicoccus hirsutus	Mealybug	A	unknown
1	Milviscutulus mangiferae	Mango Shield Scale	Q	Florida
1	Noctuidae		Q	Hawaii
1	Noctuidae	1st instar	Q	unknown
1	Ochetellus glaber	Ant	Q	Hawaii
1	Pentatomidae	eggs	Q	unknown
1	Pentatomidae	egg shells	Q	Florida
2	Pheidole megacephala	Bigheaded Ant	Q	Florida
2	Pheidole megacephala	Bigheaded Ant	Q	Hawaii
1	Pheidole megacephala	Bigheaded Ant	Q	unknown
3	Pheidole sp.	Ant	Q	Florida
4	Pheidole sp.	Ant	Q	Hawaii
2	Pheidole sp.	Ant	Q	unknown
4	Pinnaspis buxi	Boxwood Scale	A	unknown
1	Pinnaspis strachani	Lesser Snow Scale	A	Florida
1	Pseudaulacaspis brimblecombei		Q	Hawaii
1	Pseudaulacaspis pentagona	White Peach Scale	A	Hawaii
6	Pseudococcidae	crawlers	Q	Hawaii
2	Pseudococcidae	immature	Q	unknown
1	Pseudococcus odermatti	Mealybug	Q	Florida
1	Pseudococcus sp.	Mealybug	Q	Hawaii

Number of Interceptions	Scientific Name	Common Name/ Notes	Rating	Origin
1	Radionaspis indica	Mango Scale	Q	Puerto Rico
1	Rotylenchulus reniformis	Reniform Nematode	A	unknown
1	Tapinoma melanocephalum	Black Headed Ant	Q	Hawaii
3	Technomyrmex albipes	Ant	Q	Hawaii
1	Technomyrmex albipes	Ant	Q	unknown
2	Thrips maculicollis	Thrips	Q	Hawaii
1	Thysanoflorinia nephelii	Longan Scale	Q	Florida
2	Thysanoptera	larvae	Q	Hawaii
1	Tineidae		Q	unknown
1	Tortricidae		Q	California
1	Tortricidae		Q	Florida
1	Tortricidae		Q	unknown
1	Zabrotes sp.	Bean Weevil	Q	unknown
Total: 124				

A-rated, a pest of economic or environmental detriment and is either not known to be established in California or it is present in a limited distribution that allows for the possibility of eradication or successful containment.

Q-rated, an organism or disorder suspected to be of economic or environmental detriment, but whose status is uncertain because of incomplete identification or inadequate information.

Significant Interceptions

'Lei' Down...Good Dog!

PDR: 1630054



On July 5, 2011, San Bernardino County's newest Dog Team, Kristina Cummings and Bishop, sniffed out an unmarked 8 lb. shipment of leis at the Ontario Airport. The parcel originated in Hilo, Hawaii and was stamped "HDOA-USDA Release"; however, it did not have the required markings on the outside of the parcel. Additionally, after an inspection of the product inside the parcel (leis), insect samples were collected and submitted to the lab for identification. A Notice of Rejection was issued for the following CA Food and Agriculture Codes (FAC):

- CA FAC 6421, Markings
- CA FAC 6461.5, Live Pests

Lab results revealed that the leis made of *Fragraea berteriana* flowers were infested with Q-rated *Thrips maculicollis*. The leis were destroyed by the County.

Interestingly, CDFA and HDOA had recently been working together regarding this pest. The CDFA lab notified HDOA of the first identification of this thrip from Hawaii (June 17, 2011) because this species was not known to be established in Hawaii. After review of their records, HDOA determined that this species may have been misidentified as *T. leeuweni* or near *T. leeuweni* or *Thrips sp.* for many years. CDFA will continue to notify HDOA of interceptions of *T. maculicollis* so that HDOA can confirm the establishment of *T. maculicollis* in the Hawaiian environment.

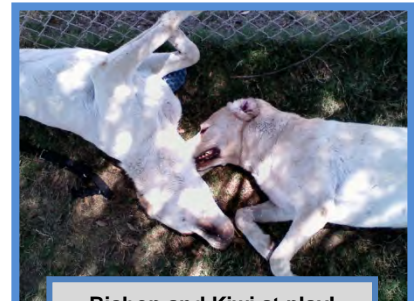


Kristina Cumming & Bishop hard at work

Kristina and Bishop joined the California Dog Team Program after graduating from the National Detector Dog Training Center in December 2010.

Bishop is a yellow Labrador that was rescued from an animal shelter in Newnan, GA. He is the largest dog in the Program weighing close to 80 lbs. While Bishop is large in body size, he has quite a short tail (only a few inches long!) which makes him stand out among the Labrador breed as well as among his fellow detector dogs.

After inspecting the terminals, Bishop's favorite playtime activity is chasing a ball at the park and playing with his friend (fellow San Bernardino agriculture canine) "Kiwi".



Bishop and Kiwi at play!

Hawkeye was "Longan" to Catch Something...

PDR: 1512703



Santa Clara canine, Hawkeye, alerting on a box of longans

On July 26, 2011, Santa Clara County's dog team, Hawkeye, his handler Tino Manchaca, and biologist Jennifer Gracy, intercepted a box from Florida containing longan fruit. Stems and leaves were attached to the fruit indicating that this was not a commercial shipment. Backyard grown longans are prohibited under California State Exterior Quarantine for Caribbean fruit fly (California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section [3252](#)), unless treated. Backyard longans may have cracks which can lead to infestation of Caribbean fruit fly. As per Pest Exclusion Advisory No. [27-2011](#), longans (and lychees) from Florida must be shipped from approved, commercial shippers.



In addition, there were no markings on the box indicating it contained longans or where they were grown. The shipper was contacted and informed the requirements of CCR Section [3252](#) and California Food and Agricultural Code (FAC) Section [6421](#) (package markings).

The longans were inspected and scale insects were found on the fruit. Samples submitted to the lab were confirmed as *Thysanofiorinia nephelii* (longan scale), a Q-rated pest.

The shipment was rejected and destroyed by the County and a Notice of Rejection was written for violation of FAC Section 6421 and CCR Section 3252.

Drake 'Nose' Citrus

NOR 370R2011800397

On August 18, 2011, San Diego Dog Team Ted Olsen and Drake intercepted a UPS parcel containing ten Kaffir lime plants originating from Florida. Although there was no return address on the parcel, the tracking information indicated it had been sent from a UPS store in Margate, FL.



Ted Olsen and Drake shown with rejected Kaffir lime plants from FL



Drake demonstrates how he detects unmarked parcels containing agricultural commodities by using his nose

Assisting inspectors Priscilla Yeane and Kristi Conway got down to business looking for any potential pest threats. Because of the large number of serious citrus pests in Florida, they conducted a very thorough inspection for insects (including Asian citrus psyllid), submitted root and soil samples for nematode testing, and plant samples for huanglongbing testing. Luckily all samples were confirmed **negative** by the CDFA Plant Pest Diagnostics Center.

San Diego County appropriately completed and submitted the [SITC Referral Form](#) due to the Federal Quarantine violations.

The Notice of Rejection cited the following violations:

- 7 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 301.75 --**Citrus Canker**
- 7 CFR 301.76 --**Citrus Greening and Asian Citrus Psyllid**
- 7 CFR 301.81 --**Imported Fire Ant**
- California Code of Regulations (CCR) 3250 --**Citrus Pests**
- CCR 3271 --**Burrowing and Reniform Nematode**
- CA Food and Agriculture Code (FAC) 6421 --**Interstate Marking Requirements**

USDA/SITC, CDFA and county staff further investigated, including a site visit to the receiver to determine if other citrus plants from Florida have been received in the past. Typical SITC investigations also include questioning the shipper and taking steps to prevent future shipments.

'Ti' For Two?

PDRs: 1561615-7, 619, 621, 623-624



Confiscated ti leaves

On August 19, 2011, Stephanie LeBarron, Fresno Dog Team handler, and her four-legged companion Chelsea intercepted a box containing *Cordyline* sp. (ti) leaves while working at the Fresno OnTrac terminal. Paperwork gathered from the box and telephone conversations with the shipper confirmed the ti leaves originated from Costa Rica.

Upon initial inspection at the facility, many live ants were observed. The box was sealed and brought to the office for a more detailed inspection. At the office, Jo Harper, Ag Standards Specialist III, noticed scales on the ti leaves.

Ants, scales, and a snail were submitted to the Plant Pest Diagnostics Laboratory for identification. The pests were identified as Q-rated *Pheidole* sp. (ants), A-rated *Pinnaspis buxi* (boxwood scales), and Q-rated Gastropoda (snail). The shipment was destroyed under California Food and Agricultural Code, Section 6461.5, live pests.

Four days later, on Aug 23, 2011, Stephanie and Chelsea intercepted a similar box. Upon inspection, it contained the same product (ti leaves) and again many ants were found. The box was seized and inspected more closely at the office. After reviewing the paperwork, it was confirmed that the parcel was from the same shipper and going to the same receiver as the above interception.



Fresno canine Chelsea shown with the infested ti leaf boxes

Scales and ants were collected and submitted to the Plant Pest Diagnostics Laboratory for identification. Again, A-rated *Pinnaspis buxi* (boxwood scales) and Q-rated *Pheidole* sp. (ants) were identified. The shipment was destroyed.

Two A-rated Finds, Cosmo is out of this World!

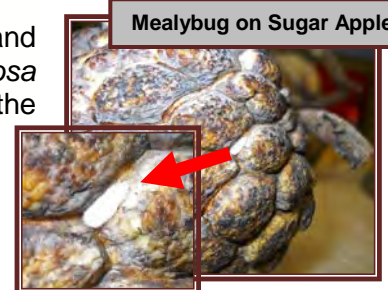
PDRs: 1583275 - 1583276

On August 24, 2011, Alameda County Dog Team Lisa Centoni and Cosmo intercepted a 13 lb. box of Florida origin *Annona squamosa* (sugar apples) at an Oakland UPS. Cosmo led Lisa right into the loaded UPS truck and reached up to alert on a box housed on the top shelf to let Lisa know it contained agriculture.



Cosmo with rejected box of sugar apples

Inspector Ken Peek brought the box of sugar apples back to the office for a detailed inspection. Samples submitted to the Plant Pest Diagnostics Laboratory were identified as A-rated *Maconellicoccus hirsutus* (mealybug) and A-rated *Dysmicoccus grassii* (mealybug). The shipment was rejected under California Food and Agricultural Codes, Section 6421 (markings) and Section 6461.5 (live pests) and destroyed.



Mealybug on Sugar Apple

Also, sugar apples from Florida are also prohibited under California State Exterior Quarantine for Caribbean fruit fly (California Code of Regulations, Section 3252), unless properly treated at origin.

Cosmo and Lisa began working together in California parcel facilities in January 2011 and are one of CDFA's newest Dog Teams. Cosmo is a Labrador mix and is approximately two years of age. Cosmo was rescued from an animal shelter in Dekalb County, Georgia just over one year ago and found his calling as an agriculture detector dog when he was brought to the USDA National Detector Dog Training Center in Newnan, Georgia.

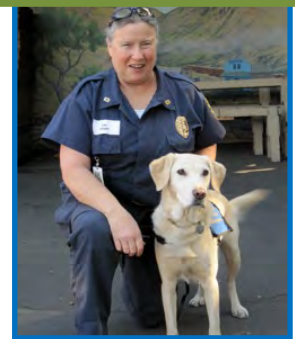
When Lisa first met Cosmo, his favorite pastimes were leash pulling and tackling whoever dared to enter his kennel. Very soon he learned that finding fruit and scratching on boxes was a much more enjoyable game that resulted in a reward for "playing." Cosmo has adjusted very well to his new life in California and loves his job. His favorite target smell is mango but he loves all tropical fruit.

USPS Inspections Paying Off

PDR: 1626204, 1626208-9

On August 31, 2011 and September 1, 2011, dog team Cecilie Seigel and Bella (Contra Costa County) alerted on two parcels from Florida at the U.S. Post Office in San Jose. The boxes were marked 'perishable'. Cecilie put them on hold for Santa Clara County to inspect.

Cecilie Seigel and Bella



Unique to **first-class mail sent through the U.S. Post Office**, inspecting biologists must first contact and receive permission to open the parcel from either the sender or receiver.

The following morning, Santa Clara biologist Julius Calso received proper permission to open the parcels. Upon inspection, sugar apples from Florida were found. Inspector Calso collected and submitted mealybugs and scales to the Plant Pest Diagnostics Laboratory for identification. A-rated *Dysmicoccus grassii* (mealybug) and A-rated *Pinnaspis strachani* (lesser snow scale) were identified. The infested shipments were destroyed.

A Notice of Rejection was issued for the following California Food and Agricultural Codes:

- Section 6421, Markings
- Section 6461.5, Reasonable Cause

Sugar apples from Florida are also prohibited under California State Exterior Quarantine for **Caribbean fruit fly** (California Code of Regulations, Section 3252), unless properly treated at origin.

Sugar apples from Florida infested with mealybugs



Jackfruit from Florida infested with scales



Something Smells Fishy

PDR: 190P06006310, 11

On September 23, 2011, the Los Angeles County Dog Team of Hung Truong and Ebony set out to work at one of the busiest parcel facilities in Los Angeles County (Hawthorne, FedEx). As part of an effort by CDFA to conduct in-the-field training with County inspectors, CDFA Associate Agricultural Biologist Nara Mnatsakanian accompanied Los Angeles County Inspectors Fayek Girgis and Elvira Aclan to assist with inspection and determination of quarantine violations for parcels alerted on by Ebony. It proved to be a successful day for all.



Image 1

Ebony first alerted on two unmarked boxes in a pile of other packages. Hawaiian hand-tied leis were discovered in the unmarked boxes (**Image 1**). Upon careful inspection of the leis, scales, ants, and white flies were found and submitted to the CDFA Plant Pest Diagnostics Laboratory. The samples were confirmed as **A-rated Green Scale (*Coccus viridis*)** and **Q-rated Whitefly (*Asiothrix antidesmae*)**.

The USDA certifies cut flowers shipped from Hawaii. Inspectors should expect to see these commodities arrive with the USDA “Limited Permit Stamp” or a USDA “Released” stamp.

In addition to the unmarked parcels containing infested leis, Ebony also alerted on a parcel labeled “tropical fish”, which was presented to her by Biologist Mnatsakanian and Inspector Girgis (**Image 2**). Rather than fishies in the “tropical fish” labeled parcel, inspectors uncovered aquatic plants in plastic tubes from Florida (**Image 3**).



Image 3



Image 2

Inspectors found and submitted scale specimens from the ‘fishy’ aquatic plants. **A-rated Oriental Scale (*Aonidiella orientalis*)** was later confirmed by the lab.

Violations for the infested aquatic plants include:

- CA Food and Agricultural Code (FAC) 6421- Interstate Marking Requirements
- CA Code of Regulations (CCR) 3281-Hydrilla
- CA Code of Regulations (CCR) 3271- Burrowing and Reniform Nematode

All shipments were destroyed under Food and Agricultural Code, Section 6461.5 for the presence of live pests.



Image 1

September 29, 2011 started out early just like most days for San Diego County Dog Team Jeremy Partch, his dog Friday and Inspector Jaime Garza. Poised to protect California agriculture from invasive pests, all three entered the San Marcos UPS not knowing that this day would be one for the pest exclusion history books. Unbeknownst to all, inside this UPS was one unmarked parcel containing plants sent from Florida infested with SERIOUS invaders! **Super Friday (Image 1)** alerted on this inconspicuous parcel...scratch,

scratch...check this one!

Upon opening the unmarked parcel, *Acacia*, *Alocasia* and *Amorhorrhallus* plants with roots and soil were uncovered (**Image 2**). **Super Friday** received her treat for correctly alerting on a parcel containing agriculture; good girl. Inspector Garza quickly sealed the parcel and set it aside for a closer inspection back at the office. The inspection resulted in the capture of a suspect ant which was submitted to CDFA for identification. Inspector Garza, quick on his toes, also deduced that this plant material may present a risk for introducing Burrowing or Reniform nematode so decided to also submit root and soil samples for nematode testing. What a great decision that would turn out to be!

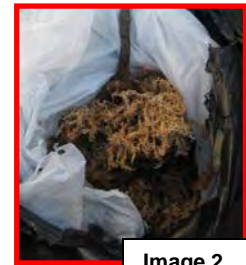
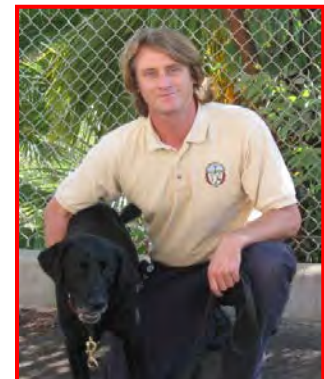


Image 2

On October 4, 2011, the CDFA Plant Pest Diagnostics Laboratory confirmed that the team had nabbed not only a Q-rated bigheaded ant (*Pheidole megacephala*) but also one of California agriculture's most wanted pests, **A-rated Reniform nematode** (*Rotylenchulus reniformis*)!!!

After contacting the shipper, the County learned that the parcel was sent from a California resident visiting Florida to his home in California. The shipper, and in this case also the receiver, purchased the plants from a Home Depot in Florida and claimed to have no knowledge of restrictions for shipping plant material to California. San Diego County educated the shipper of the requirements to ensure future compliance. They also worked with UPS to determine if similar parcels from Florida have been shipped to this receiver.



Handler Jeremy Partch and incognito Super Friday

Reniform nematode is a serious pest of over 115 plant genera. A few of the economically important crops impacted by Reniform nematode include cotton, sweet potato, soybean and many vegetable crops including lettuce and tomato. Reniform nematode is not detectable with the naked eye; samples must be submitted to the lab for identification.

Because no certification accompanied the parcel, a Notice of Rejection was issued for the following violations:

- CA Code of Regulations (CCR) 3271- Burrowing and Reniform Nematode
- Federal Domestic Quarantine, 7 CFR 301.81 Imported Fire Ant
- Food and Agricultural Code, Section 6421 (markings)
- Food and Agricultural Code, Section 6461.5 (live pests)
- The shipment was destroyed

Kiwi's Ant Find

PDR: 1638157



Shipment of Taro Root

On January 26, 2012, at FedEx Ontario Airport, San Bernardino County Dog Team Handler Mike Cochrane, dog Kiwi, and Inspector Hardeman intercepted an unmarked box of taro root from Florida. Certification did not accompany the shipment.



Eight pest vials and a nematode sample were submitted to the PPD laboratory for identification. A sample submitted under PDR number 1638157 was identified as Q-rated *Pheidole* sp.

Many C-rated pests were also identified from this taro root shipment (PDRs 1638155-156, 158-162).

The shipment was rejected and destroyed due to the following:

- California Food and Agricultural Code, [Section 6461.5](#) (reasonable cause)
- California Food and Agricultural Code, Section 6421 (markings)
- Lack of certification for Federal Domestic Quarantine 301.81 (imported fire ant)
- Lack of certification for CA State Exterior Quarantine 3271 (burrowing and reniform nematode)



San Bernardino County Dog Team, Mike Cochrane and Kiwi – working together since January 2011

Pests on Sweet Peas

PDR: 1630350, 1638821, 823



Kiwi shown alerting on a parcel and awaiting her reward

On February 15, 2012, San Bernardino dog team handler Mike Cochrane and dog Kiwi intercepted a pest infested five-pound parcel containing sweet pea plants. The origin of the plant material was unknown because the package lacked proper markings.

Samples submitted to the Plant Pest Diagnostics Laboratory in Sacramento were identified as the following Q-rated pests:

Aleyrodidae Family (whitefly), Aphididae Family (aphid) and *Ceroplastes* sp. (wax scale)

The shipment was rejected and destroyed due to the following violations:

- California Food and Agricultural Code, [Section 6521](#), Reasonable cause
- California Food and Agricultural Code, [Section 6501](#), Intrastate Markings

Sweet pea from <http://www.theflowerexpert.com/>

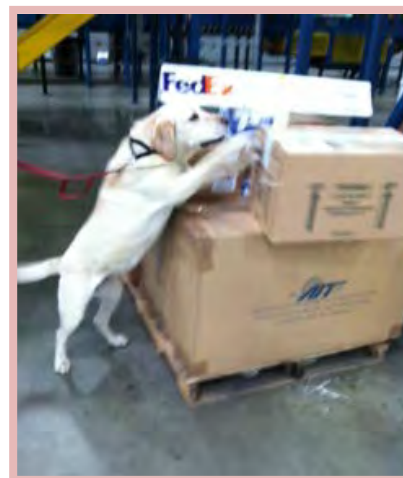


San Bernardino Dog Team Interceptions

PDR: 1630625, 1638167

1630625

On April 9, 2012, while working the night sort at FedEx Ground in Bloomington, San Bernardino County Inspector Joshua Hardeman, dog handler Mike Cochrane, and dog Kiwi intercepted an unmarked parcel containing a balled palm tree which originated from Perris, CA. Inspection of the palm resulted in the interception of a Q-rated Tortricidae (tortricid). A notice of rejection was issued for FAC [6501](#), **intrastate** markings and FAC [6461.5](#), live pests.



Kiwi alerting on a package

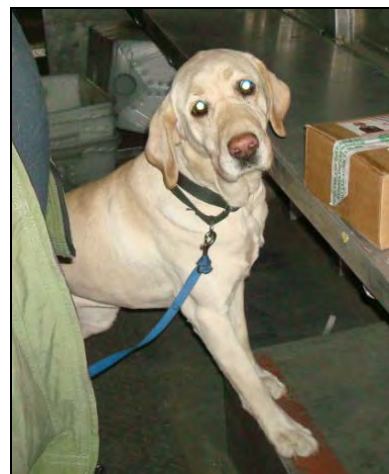
1638167

On April 1, 2012, this same team intercepted live pests on Hawaiian ti leaves at UPS in Ontario. Q-rated Pseudococcidae (mealybug) crawlers were identified. The shipment was rejected for FAC [6461.5](#), live pests, and destroyed.

San Bernardino Dog Team Interception

PDR: 1630069, 1630070

San Bernardino dog team handler Mike Cochrane and dog Kiwi intercepted a package of ti leaves from Hawaii Tropicals Direct at a UPS in Ontario. Pests were collected and Q-rated Pseudococcidae (mealybug) crawler and cast skin and Lepidoptera egg shell were identified. The package was rejected for FAC [6461.5](#), live pests and destroyed.



Kiwi "paws"ing for a photo opportunity



From January 1, 2012 to the present, 20 A- and Q-rated pests have been identified on ti leaves originating from Hawaii including slug, ants, mealybugs, and scale.

CDFA recommends that when ti leaves are encountered, that they are closely inspected for pests of concern.

Image from <http://www.hawaiiflowerlei.com/product.aspx?pid=28>

Pests intercepted on Hawaiian Lei by San Diego County Dog Team

PDR: 1326562, 1326563

On April 26, 2012, inspector Jaime Garza and dog team handler Jeremy Partch and dog Friday were inspecting at a FedEx in San Diego when Friday hit on a box of plants originating from Hawaii. The box was certified with a limited permit (Oahu-0073) and contained cut flowers from Le Flowers in Honolulu. Samples were collected from a *Polianthes* sp. and *Abutilon* sp. mixed flower lei. The lei was taken to the county entomology lab for further review. Agricultural Scientist Tracy Ellis collected samples of leaf hopper, lepidoptera larvae, aphids, thrip, and homopteran nymphs to submit for determination.



Photos of pests intercepted from lei



The following Q-rated pests were identified: Aphididae, Auchenorrhyncha, Noctuidae, Pseudococcidae, and *Technomyrmex albipes*.

The infested lei was destroyed; the rest of the shipment was released.

**San Bernardino County Dog Team
Pests on Basil from Hawaii**

PDR: 1638169, 1638171, 1630510, 1630513

On May 2, 2012, San Bernardino County dog team handler Mike Cochrane, dog Kiwi, county inspectors Keri Vigil and Lisa Espinosa together collected 18 vials worth of pest specimens from three boxes of infested herbs from PacFresh in Hawaii at UPS Ontario during the evening sort.

Pests intercepted include:

- A- rated *Chrysodeixis eriosoma* (green garden looper)
- Q-rated Geometridae (geometrid moth)
- Q-rated Noctuidae (owlet moth)
- Q-rated Pseudococcidae (mealybug)
- Q-rated Thysanoptera (thrips)

The shipment was issued a notice of rejection for the following and destroyed:

- FAC [6421](#) (interstate markings)
- FAC [6461.5](#) (live pests)
- Federal Hawaiian and Territorial quarantine [318.13](#)

Inspector Vigil has made several rejections for material originating at PacFresh and has reported that the airline has refused to accept any more shipments from this shipper.



Kiwi at work and basil herbs from HI

Contra Costa Dog Team Interception

PDR: 1626350

On June 13, 2012, Contra Costa County's dog team handler Mariah de Nijs, dog Bart, and Santa Clara County Biologist Julius Calso intercepted an unmarked package of *Annona muricata* (soursop) fruits from Puerto Rico at a USPS facility. Damage to the box exposed the contents. Further inspection of the fruits revealed mealybugs on the soursop. The laboratory identified A-rated *Maconellicoccus hirsutus* (mealybug). The soursop was rejected due to FAC 6461.5 (live pests) and 6421 (lack of markings) and destroyed.



Rejected soursop

[7 CFR 318.13](#) (State of Hawaii and Territories [including Puerto Rico] Quarantine Notices) lists fruits and vegetables allowed from Puerto Rico. Soursop is not listed and therefore prohibited.

The [USDA-APHIS PPQ Manuals](#) also have information on which fruits and vegetables are approved to enter the continental United States.

Signature on File

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