

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



DOG TEAM PROGRAM Annual Report

July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011

Pictured:

Back row: Cecilie Seigel & Bella (Contra Costa), Hung Truong & Ebony (Los Angeles), Tino Menchaca & Hawkeye (Santa Clara), Tom Doud & Kojack (San Joaquin), Lisa Centoni & Cosmo (Alameda), Mariah Denijs & Bart (Contra Costa). Front row: Ted Olsen & Drake (San Diego), Rogelio Caranza & Tahoe (Los Angeles), Stephanie LeBarron & Chelsea (Fresno), Jeremy Partch & Friday (San Diego), Jennifer Berger & Roxie (Sacramento). Not pictured: Mike Cochrane & Kiwi (San Bernardino), Kristina Cummings & Bishop (San Bernardino)

Purpose of Cooperative Agreement #10-8520-1165-CA

The purpose of cooperative agreement USDA #10-8520-1165-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 USDA #10-8520-1165-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, training new handlers 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 during reporting period July 1, 2010–June 30, 2011 (**Table 1**).

TABLE 1: USDA/SITC Referrals by CA Dog Teams

Date	Commodity	Origin
March 22, 2011	Milkweed plant with roots and soil	Texas
June 19, 2011	Mixed herbs and plant material including citrus peel	China

Work Plan Activities Performed by County Agricultural Commissioners

The following California dog teams worked the full reporting period (July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011): Contra Costa County (two teams), Fresno (one team), Los Angeles (two teams), San Diego (two teams) and Santa Clara County (one team).

In August 2010, San Bernardino canine CC was retired due to a medical condition. In November 2010, Sacramento County canine Tassie was retired due to age. All canines in the Program must retire by age nine. The handlers for both retired canines returned to the NDDTC for three weeks to procure and train with new canines. Sacramento and San Bernardino handlers returned to California with their new canines in December 2010.

In October 2010, three new handlers from Alameda, San Bernardino and San Joaquin counties attended the 10-week training course at the NDDTC in Newnan, Georgia. All three handlers successfully completed training and graduated in December 2010. From July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011, California Dog Teams were distributed as outlined below (**Table 2**).

TABLE 2: Distribution of CA Dog Teams

	County	Months in Operation During Reporting Period	Area Covered
1	Alameda	6 months (Graduated from NDDTC, Dec-2010)	Alameda County
2	Contra Costa Team #1	12 months	Bay Area
3	Contra Costa Team #2	12 months	Bay Area
4	Fresno	12 months	Fresno County
5	Los Angeles Team #1	12 months	Los Angeles
6	Los Angeles Team #2	12 months	Los Angeles
7	Sacramento	4 months with Tassie, retired Oct-2010 6 months with Roxie- Graduated NDDTC, Dec-10	Sacramento Valley
8	San Bernardino Team #1	1 month with CC, retired Aug-2010 6 months with Kiwi- Graduated NDDTC, Dec-10	Inland Empire
9	San Bernardino Team #2	6 months (Graduated from NDDTC, Dec-2010)	Inland Empire
10	San Diego Team #1	12 months	San Diego County
11	San Diego Team #2	12 months	San Diego County
12	San Joaquin	6 months (Graduated from NDDTC, Dec-2010)	San Joaquin County
13	Santa Clara	12 months	South Bay Area

County Agricultural Commissioner’s Accomplishments:

The California Dog Teams have demonstrated that unmarked parcels present a high-risk pathway for harmful pests to enter California (Table 3). Between July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011, California Dog Teams alerted on 50,294 total marked and unmarked parcels containing agricultural products. Of the total alerts, 1,981 were unmarked parcels containing agricultural commodities (Table 4). A total of 57 pests were intercepted during the reporting period, which included 7 actionable A-rated pests and 50 actionable Q-rated pests (Table 5). Some of these interceptions involved multiple pest specimens in a single package. Additionally, due to the efforts of the California Dog Teams, 2,016 rejections were issued for violations of state and federal plant quarantine laws and regulations.

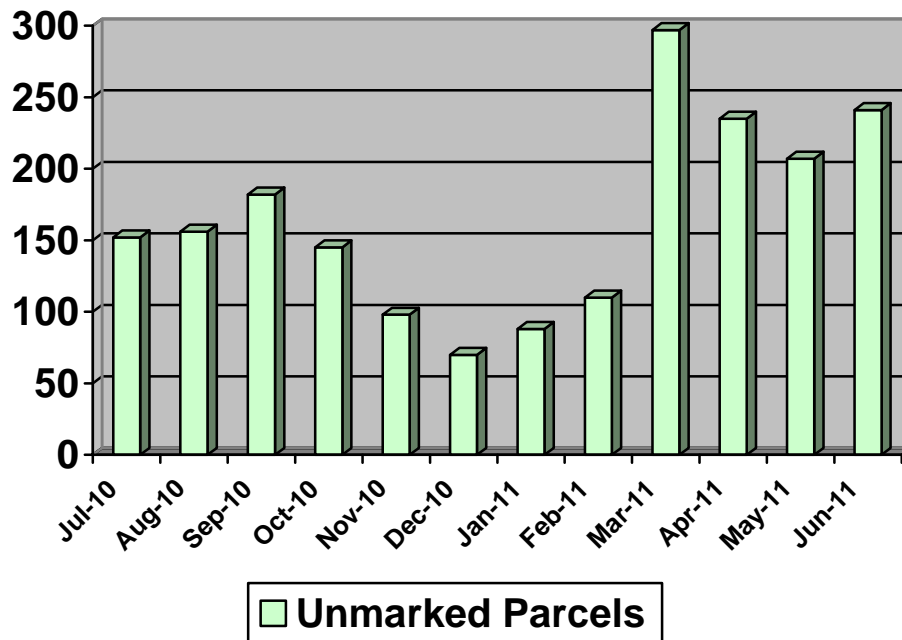
TABLE 3: CA Dog Teams -Parcels, Pests and Violations

Total Parcels Alerted on by Dog	50,294
Total Parcels Unmarked with Agricultural Commodities	1,981
Total A & Q Pests	57
Total Violations of Plant Quarantine Law and Regulations	2,016

Trends in Unmarked Parcels

During reporting period (July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011), Dog Teams conducted inspections at a total of 109 facilities throughout the state. During that time, the number of unmarked parcels found to contain agricultural products was highest in the month of March, with a total of 297 reported unmarked parcels that month, with June having the second highest number of unmarked parcels found to contain agricultural products (241) (Table 4).

TABLE 4: Detections of Unmarked Parcels



Significant Pest Interceptions

The table below (Table 5: Significant Pest Interceptions) 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 table is a narrative of interesting finds during the reporting period.

TABLE 5: Significant Pest Interceptions
(July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011)

Number of Interceptions	Scientific Name	Common Name	Rating	Origin
A-RATED				
1	<i>Ceroplastes floridensis</i>	Florida Wax Scale	A	LA
3	<i>Ceroplastes rubens</i>	Red Wax Scale	A	HI
1	<i>Pinnaspis</i> sp.	Armored Scale	A	HI
2	<i>Pseudaulacaspis cockerelli</i>	Magnolia White Scale	A	HI
7	A-RATED-TOTAL			
Q-RATED				
1	ALEYRODIDAE		Q	HI
5	APHIDIDAE		Q	HI (2), GA (3)
1	CICADELLIDAE		Q	GA, HI
1	COCCIDAE sp.		Q	FL
1	COREIDAE		Q	GA
2	CURCULIONIDAE		Q	HI, TX
2	DIASPIDIDAE		Q	FL, HI
1	<i>Dichromothrips smithi</i>	Thrips	Q	HI
1	<i>Dichromothrips</i> sp.		Q	HI
1	GEOMETRIDAE		Q	MA
1	GRACILLARIIDAE		Q	FL
1	GRYLLIDAE		Q	FL
2	<i>Kallitaxila granulata</i>	Planthopper	Q	HI, UT
1	MIRIDAE		Q	HI
1	NOCTUIDAE		Q	HI
1	<i>Nysius</i> sp.	Seed Bug	Q	HI
2	<i>Ochetellus glaber</i>	Ant	Q	HI
1	<i>Orchamoplatus mammaeferus</i>	Croton Whitefly	Q	HI
2	<i>Pheidole</i> sp.	Ant	Q	FL, HI
2	PHILOMYCIDAE		Q	MI
1	<i>Prococcus acutissimus</i>	Slender Soft Scale	Q	HI
1	<i>Pseudaonidia trilobitiformis</i>	Trilobe Scale	Q	HI
5	PSEUDOCOCCIDAE		Q	HI
1	<i>Pseudococcus lycopodii</i>	Club Moss Mealybug	Q	HI
7	<i>Technomyrmex albipes</i>	Ant	Q	FL (2), HI (5)
1	<i>Technomyrmex</i> sp.	Ant	Q	HI
1	THRIPIDAE sp.		Q	HI
1	VERONICELLIDAE		Q	HI
1	<i>Vinsonia stellifera</i>	Stellate Scale	Q	HI
1	<i>Wasmannia auropunctata</i>	Ant	Q	HI
50	Q-RATED-TOTAL			

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

Drake holds his weight when it comes to tipping the 'scales'!

On July 30, 2010, while working at the San Marcos UPS facility, San Diego Dog Team Ted Olsen (handler), Greg Terhall (inspector) and Drake (hot dog!) intercepted an unmarked package containing plumeria cuttings from Hawaii.

Samples submitted to the lab confirmed A-rated magnolia white scale, the first A-rated pest detected by this team! No doubt this A-rated find is the first of many more to come.



Picture Courtesy of Ted Olsen
San Diego County

Thank goodness it's FRIDAY!

On August 18, 2010, San Diego Agricultural K-9 Team, Jeremy Partch and Friday, along with Agricultural Inspector Narriman McNair, came upon four properly-marked boxes of Hawaiian plant material coming down a belt in the FedEx Carlsbad terminal. Senior Agricultural Inspector Partch recommended a random inspection of the plants to ensure that they met cleanliness standards. Upon opening the first box, Agricultural Inspector McNair quickly found a live slug crawling on one of the plants. Subsequently, all of the boxes were blue-tagged for a more thorough examination at the destination nursery. The next day, Agricultural Inspector McNair performed a detailed inspection which produced four additional insect submissions. The final yield of this inspection was one Q-rated slug, Veronicellidae, found on *Heliconia* sp., and two Q-rated mealybugs, Pseudococcidae, found on *Nephelium lappaceum* and *Rollinia deliciosa*.



Picture Courtesy of Jeremy Partch
San Diego County

The shipment was destroyed under Food and Agricultural Code, Section 6461.5 for presence of live pests.

Hawkeye's not lei-ing down on this job!



Pictures Courtesy of
Santa Clara County

On August 24, 2010, a shipment of leis from Hawaii was intercepted at FedEx, Santa Clara by Agricultural Inspector Jennifer Gracy, along with Santa Clara dog handler Tino Menchaca and his dog Hawkeye. 'This was a very emotional incident as the leis were sent as a special surprise for the shipper's mother's 80th birthday and "her final wish". Much (1/2 an hour!) pleading and crying was involved from both sisters (shipper and receiver); however, we had no choice but to hold the leis until lab determinations could be made on the multiple insect samples submitted.' Q-rated ants, *Technomyrmex albipes*, were identified.



The county kindly 'emailed pictures of the leis to the receiver so her mother was able to see the beautiful leis her daughters had arranged for her birthday.'

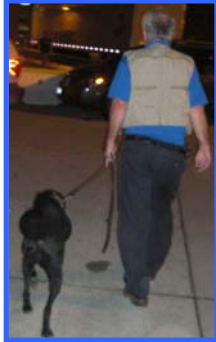
The shipment was destroyed under Food and Agricultural Codes, Section 6461.5 for presence of live pests and Section 6421 for improper markings.

San Bernardino Canine CC Retires

In July 2010, the National Detector Dog Training Center recommended the retirement of San Bernardino County dog CC due to a medical condition. Luckily for CC, her handler, Mike Cochran, was willing and able to adopt her. Handlers are always given the first opportunity to adopt their partners at retirement. CC's medical condition requires her to be on medication for the rest of her life. Hats off to Mike for committing to her care!



CC's illustrious career includes the detection of parcels that contained 14 A-rated and 69 Q-rated pests!!! Beginning in February 2007, Mike and CC conducted parcel inspections at various parcel facilities throughout the Inland Empire Area.



Handler Mike Cochran guides CC into retirement

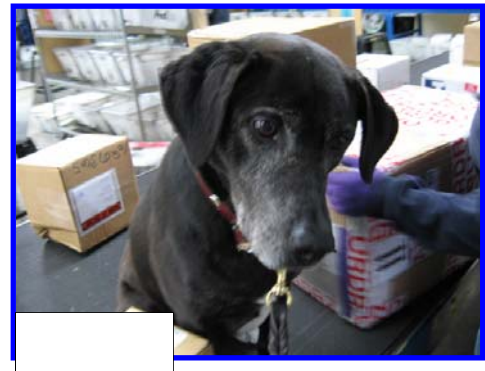
One of the highlights of CC's career occurred in 2007. The team intercepted multiple parcels containing concealed Indian mangos, a host of Oriental fruit fly and other significant pests. The interceptions resulted in a nationwide alert, identified an international smuggling pathway, and resulted in a large fine against the shipping company.

The team has averaged 300+ parcel finds per year containing prohibited or restricted plant or animal material. The ability of CC to accurately identify unmarked parcels containing agricultural products has averaged 91.67% between 2007-2010. Enjoy retirement, thanks for doing a doggone good job CC!

Sacramento Canine Tassie Retires

In November 2010, Sacramento County dog Tassie, or Tass Master 2000 as her handler lovingly refers to her, was retired. All dogs in the California Dog Team Program are required to retire by age nine. Miss Tassie has reached that mark and will soon sail into retirement.

Tassie's lengthy resume tops that of some seasoned human inspectors. Tassie has not only worked for CDFA's California Dog Program but also worked for the U.S. Customs and Border Protection and USDA's Plant Protection and Quarantine for programs including Giant African Snail and Citrus Canker.



Among Tassie's many alerts on packages containing plant material infested with actionable pests, her claim to California fame is her detection of an unmarked package from Texas found infested with the Asian citrus psyllid (ACP). ACP has been a pest high on the radar for the California citrus industry. Tassie's alert on this package prevented the introduction of ACP into the Sacramento area.



Jennifer Berger and Tassie

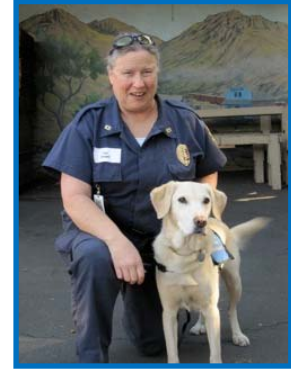
Jennifer and Tassie began working together in April 2009. During the 18 months they operated together, Tassie alerted on over 10,000 packages (marked and unmarked) containing plant material and accurately identified unmarked parcels containing agricultural products at a staggering average of 95.25% of the time.

Thanks for making California your last post Tassie! Happy tails to you in retirement!

Bella's Find at the Post Office is "Nuts"



In June 2011, dog team Cecilie Seigel and Bella (Contra Costa County) intercepted an unmarked parcel from Texas at the U.S. Post Office in San Jose destined for a home in Morgan Hill. Bella alerted on this package so Cecile put the shipment on hold for Santa Clara County to inspect.



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 morning following the alert by Bella, Santa Clara biologist Alicia Earle was able to receive permission from the sender of the shipment and open and inspect the contents. Much to her surprise, there was a box full of pecans in the shell along with several hitchhikers trying to make it to California. Samples submitted to CDFA's lab included several C-rated saw-toothed grain beetles and Q-rated larva: Coleoptera CURCULIONIDAE.