

A NEW LEASH ON LIFE

It is with a combination of sadness and joy that CDFA announces the retirement of two invaluable members of the California Dog Team Program.

CC

In July 2010, the National Detector Dog Training Center (DDTC) recommended the retirement of San Bernardino County dog CC due to a medical condition. Luckily for CC, her handler, Mike Cochrane, 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 included 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.



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 \$40,000 fine against the shipping company.

The team 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-present. Enjoy retirement, thanks for doing a doggone good job, CC!



Tassie

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





**Jennifer and Tassie
share a moment**

Tassie's lengthy resume tops that of some seasoned human inspectors. Tassie 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. Unfortunately, Jennifer Berger, Tassie's handler, was unable to adopt her. However, after a lengthy search by Jennifer for the perfect home and parents, Tassie was adopted by a previous canine handler who assured all kinds of exercise and love.

Among Tassie's many alerts on packages containing plant material infested with actionable pests, her claim to California fame was her detection of an unmarked package from Texas found heavily infested with the Asian citrus psyllid (ACP). The 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 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.



**Tassie hams it up with CDFA Secretary
of Agriculture, A.G. Kawamura**

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