

CANINE INSPECTION FOR BED BUGS

Department of Housing Preservation and Development

Canines are being utilized by the Pest Management industry to assist with bed bug detection. The Department of Housing Preservation and Development is currently conducting inspections for bed bugs with specially trained canines for bed bugs as well.

When a complaint is received by HPD for bed bugs, you may be asked by the 311 operator about whether it would be acceptable to you for HPD to bring a canine to participate in an inspection.

If you say no, an Inspector without a canine will conduct a visual inspection. Violations will be issued if the Inspector is able to visually confirm the presence of live bed bugs.

If you are willing to have the canine assist with the inspection, you will be asked if any pesticides have been applied within the last 30 days. Unfortunately, pesticides can be harmful to our canines so we cannot send a canine inspector if you have had pesticide treatment (whether it is self-applied or applied by a professional exterminator). An inspector without a canine will conduct a visual inspection. Violations will be issued if the Inspector is able to visually confirm the presence of live bed bugs.

If you are willing to have the canine assist with the inspection and have not used pesticides, HPD requests that you take several steps to prepare for the inspection; since the canines detect bed bugs by the scent, distracting scents or activities may decrease their effectiveness. You may receive a call reminding you of these steps if we are able to schedule an appointment (not all complaints receive an appointment). (If you do not believe that you can be prepared as we are requesting, we will dispatch an inspector without a canine to conduct a visual inspection.)

- Any pets need to be removed to an area not involved in the inspection.
- Toys of any sort, pet food and water need to be inaccessible to our K9 Inspector.
- Potpourri, deodorizers, air fresheners, etc. need to be removed from the apartment at least 2 hours prior to the inspection.
- Close all windows and outside doors to minimize draft at least 2 hours prior to the inspection.
- Each room must be clutter free as possible to ensure the highest detailed inspection.
- Noise and human distraction need to be minimized to create the most effective inspection environment for our K9 team.
- Air conditioners, heaters and ceiling fans need to be turned off 30 minutes prior to inspection.
- All smoking and cooking should be eliminated within the whole area 2 hours prior to the inspection.