



Inspector Hung Truong

Pest Exclusion and Produce Quality Agricultural Detector Dog Program

County of Los Angeles
Department of Agricultural Commissioner/
Weights and Measures

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Protecting California
Agriculture

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Mediterranean fruit fly



Japanese beetle



County of Los Angeles
Department of
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Weights and Measures

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Inspector Rogelio Carranza

Kurt E. Floren
Agricultural Commissioner/
Director of Weights and Measures

Agricultural Detector Dog Program

About the Program

The Agricultural Detector Dog Program safeguards residents, the environment, and the local and statewide agricultural industry by identifying unlabeled or smuggled plant materials that can harbor exotic insects and other invertebrates entering Los Angeles County through truck, airfreight, and parcel delivery operations.

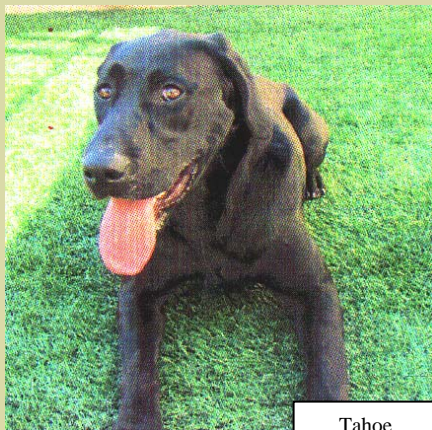
We have seen an increase in the number of newly introduced exotic insects such as Asian citrus psyllid, light brown apple moth, and Mediterranean fruit fly. An infestation of such pests could cost California millions of dollars in crop and job losses, increased pesticide use, and quarantines that impact trade. Dog teams throughout the state have detected numerous pests and diseases, demonstrating their effectiveness in the work of pest detection and exclusion.



Detector Dog Tahoe finds an unmarked parcel that contains fruit

About the Detector Dogs

Our agricultural detector dogs, Tahoe and Ebony, have been trained to detect packages containing fruits, vegetables, and plant material that could carry invasive pests. They inspect air cargo shipments and parcels on sorting belts and trucks.



Tahoe



Ebony

How You Can Help

Please:

- Do not pet, whistle, make direct eye contact, or try to get the attention of a detector dog.

Detector dogs are highly focused on their important tasks, enjoy their jobs, and perform best without distractions.

- Notify the inspector of any fear of dogs.

We appreciate your cooperation and want to ensure your comfort with the program.

- Do not feed a detector dog at any time.

Detector dogs operate under a program of food rewards provided by the handler and we work diligently to ensure their health through a strict, highly nutritious diet.

