

"TERMITE" TERRY'S INSIDER INFORMATION

TOP SECRET

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Inside This Issue...

- The Case of The Disgusting Rats 1
- Rave Reviews! 2
- Student Achievement Awards 3
- Dogs To Protect California Citrus? 3
- National Hot Dog Month 3
- Dog Stung By Bees 155 Times 4

The Case Of The "Disgusting Rats"

It was a beautiful and sunny morning in Orange County when Termite Terry arrived at his office. With his cup of coffee in hand, he sat down at his desk and started checking for phone messages and emails that came in over night.

One message that needed prompt response was an email from a property manager. This person said that her tenants were having a problem with rats in their home and that this issue needed to be dealt with immediately. The tenant was called and an appointment was set for later that morning.

Termite Terry arrived, he greeted the tenants and asked if they would show him around their home. Over the years, he has seen a lot of homes that have had rodent problems but this one was completely disgusting.

As he entered the home, the tenants pointed to the floor of the living room and showed him rat droppings scattered about. They also showed him where the rats had started eating holes in their couch.

The tenants went on to show him further signs of rats in the kitchen, bath and bedroom.

At this point, Termite Terry realized that this home had a major rat infestation and he asked permission to start his investigation.

When inspecting, Termite Terry always like to start at the front door, work his way all the around the house and back to the front door where he started. His goal was to find out how the rats were getting inside of this home.

He checked the front door and it was sealed up pretty

well – rats weren't getting in there. As he continued around the living room, he could see a number of rat droppings on the floor. The walls and windows were in good condition and there were no signs of rodent entry.

When he worked his way over to the couch, again he could see where the rats had started eating through the upholstery. He turned the couch over and there were no signs of them getting in underneath. But, then he looked at the wall behind the couch and he saw where the rats had chewed a two inch hole through the wall. He made a note of it on his inspection diagram and continued on to the kitchen.

The kitchen was in decent shape and he noted that the tenants had a dog. There was a dog bowl partially filled with food and another with water in it. He also noted that the tenants had dirty dishes in the sink and that they had pots of old food on the stove.

Termite Terry started looking through the kitchen cabinets and he found rat droppings in many of them. A lot of food items had been chewed through by the rats. Being a professional, he didn't say anything to the tenants but he said to himself, "*This is disgusting. There is no way I'd ever eat or drink anything out of this kitchen.*"

When he looked under the kitchen sink, he could see a large hole in the wall. It looked as though a plumber had done repairs and left a large, one foot by one foot, hole in the wall. Rats were obviously going in and out of this

(Keep reading!)

75 Years Ago . . .

On July 1, 1941, the Federal Communications Commission legalized commercial broadcasting and NBC and CBS both launched their television services. NBC beat CBS on the air by one hour. NBC was also the first to broadcast a TV commercial (for Bulova watches) on that famous day in television history.

Celebrating Henry Ford

"When everything seems to be going against you, remember that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it."

Henry Ford, born July 30, 1863

Rave Reviews!

"We had Termite Terry fumigate our house a couple of weeks ago. Skip came out and did the inspection and explained all his findings. After we scheduled the fumigation, he came back and patiently explained everything they were going to do, and answered all of our questions. He was very knowledgeable about the industry, including different types of chemicals that other companies use.

The fumigators did a great job, and were careful to not cause any damage to any part of the house, including our satellite dish and gutters. This was as smooth and easy an experience as we could have hoped for."

Kathy Caballero
Huntington Beach

"I want to thank Termite Terry and Skip for your help in coordinating the termite fumigation project with our re-roofing project of our six unit condos here in Costa Mesa. The tenting and fumigation went very smoothly. Skip was very helpful in educating our tenants as to what precautions are necessary on their part in protecting food items and opened medicine containers.

We also appreciated the added measures you took to insure that the doors and windows were locked.

We were fortunate in selecting your company and Lee Roofing. The two companies worked very well together."

Bob Pedersen,
Costa Mesa

"Excellent service all across the board. They even sent us a hand-written thank you letter. Really happy with everything."

Geoff R.
Laguna Beach

large hole.

The bedroom was next. There were rat droppings all around and under the bed. He even found rat droppings inside of the baby's crib!

He went on to the bathroom where he found more evidence. As he looked in the shower and saw more rat droppings inside, he said to himself, "I can't believe anyone would take a shower in here unless they were wearing a pair of Army boots!"



"Termite" Terry
as Columbo

Another large hole in the wall was found under the bath room vanity. Again, it appeared that a plumber had done repairs and left the wall wide open. Rats were obviously going in and out of this hole.

This home was built on a raised foundation, so Termite Terry asked permission to start inspecting the exterior and underside of the home.

Termite Terry started on the outside of the home, at the front door, and worked his way all around the house.

There were several trees growing over the house and touching the roof. These would all have to be cut back at least four feet away from the roof to keep rats from gaining access.

The biggest problems he found on the outside of the home were the subarea vents and the subarea crawl access. A number of the vents had damaged or missing screens and the subarea access was wide open. These openings would easily allow for rats or

other small animals to come and go as they pleased! It was quite obvious that a number of rats were living under this home.

When Termite Terry finished his investigation, he went back inside to talk to the tenants.

He said to the tenants, "Okay guys, I think I've figured out how to solve your problem, but I'm going to need your help.

First off, I'm going to ask the property manager to fix some things around the house and trim back the trees.

Next, I need for you to help us out by doing a few things inside. You know those dog dishes you have in the kitchen? I need for you to start emptying them out every night before you go to bed. Rats need food and water and if you'll put those away every night, it will make your kitchen a lot less attractive to them. You'll also need to have to start washing your dishes every night and putting them away. One other thing you need to do is to start emptying the trash every night.

If I can get you to help me out with that, get you to throw out all the open and damaged food in your cabinets and clean this place up a bit, that will make a huge difference.

Once you do all that and the property manager fixes the stuff that needs repaired, we'll set out some rat traps to catch whatever is left and I think we can make your problem go away."

Normally, Termite Terry's crew would do the necessary repairs, but this property manager had their own maintenance man. So, he went back to the office to draw up a set of instructions for their man to follow.

Their maintenance man trimmed back the trees, sealed up the holes in the interior, fixed the subarea vents and installed a new screen over the subarea access. The tenants did a good job of cleaning up inside, also.

Eric Chavez, Termite Terry's "ace rat catcher", later installed traps and got rid of the remaining rats.

This home is now rodent-free and as long as they keep the trees trimmed back and keep the home in good shape, they should never have a rat problem, again.

Have a rat problem at your home or business? **Call our office at (949) 631-7348** and we'll be happy to schedule a **free pest audit** at your convenience.

Estancia High Students Recognized For Their Achievement

Ten graduating students from Estancia High School were recently honored by the Costa Mesa Business Community for their academic achievements.

These students were honored for their ability to maintain a high grade point average in school while holding down a part-time job. The event was held at the Costa Mesa Country Club and it gave local business leaders the opportunity to meet and dine with the students they sponsor.

This year, Termite Terry was pleased to be able to sponsor Jocelyn Arevalo.



Jocelyn is now preparing to go to college and wants to major in international business. She is especially interested in the baking and restaurant industry. Speaking at the event, Termite Terry said, "Someday, we hope to see this young lady

shipping her baked goods and setting up restaurants all around the world."

James Duncan, of Aim Office in Huntington Beach, came up with the idea of holding this event to honor high achieving and hard working students. This was the 19th year in a row that this special awards ceremony has been held.

Using Dogs To Save California's Citrus Industry?

California's citrus industry is seriously under attack by the Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) and the disease it carries. Dogs are now being called in to aid in protecting these valuable crops.

A team of researchers, mostly from Florida, visited several citrus production sites in California earlier this month. They had with them a group of dogs known for their ability to sniff out a different problem insect, the one that spreads citrus canker. These dogs are now being evaluated for their ability to detect the ACP or the disease it spreads, known as Huanglongbing (HLB).

Dogs are being used in Florida to locate trees infected by citrus canker and they have been able to identify infected trees before any of canker's symptoms are visible.

Florida's \$9 billion citrus industry has been impacted the most by the ACP and has seen a 41% drop in citrus production. About 97% of Florida oranges are used to make juice.

California produces about 80% of our nation's fresh citrus fruit and this threat of the ACP must be taken seriously. Dogs have been used to sniff out bombs, drugs and bed bugs. Let's hope they can help us with this problem, too.

National Hot Dog Month

July is National Hot Dog Month and we thought it would be fun to explore some facts about one of America's favorite foods:

- Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany, is traditionally credited with originating the frankfurter. They say it was developed there in 1487, five years before Christopher Columbus set sail for the new world.
- In 2015, consumers spent more than \$2.5 billion on hot dogs in U.S. supermarkets.
- Some say the word "hot dog" was coined in 1901 at the New York Polo Grounds. Vendors at the park were hawking hot dogs from portable water tanks and shouting, "They're red hot! Get your dachshund sausages while they're red hot!" Tad Dorgan, a New York Journal sports cartoonist, saw this going on and quickly drew a cartoon of barking dachshund sausages nestled warmly in rolls. He wasn't sure of how to spell the word "dachshund", so he simply wrote "hot dog". They say the cartoon was quite a sensation, thus coining the term "hot dog".
- On the Fourth of July, Americans will eat 150 million hot dogs. If you put all those hot dogs end-to-end, they would stretch from D.C. to L.A. more than five times!
- Wienerschnitzel is known as the World's Largest Hot Dog Chain. The first Wienerschnitzel was founded in 1961 by former Taco Bell employee, John Galardi. John owned a Taco Bell in Long Beach and decided to build a new hot dog stand in Wilmington. The wife of the owner of Taco Bell heard of his plans and suggested he call his new restaurant "Wienerschnitzel". On his way home that night, he said, "Nobody in their right mind would call a company Wienerschnitzel." Three days later he said, "Hell, it's better than John's Hot Dogs."

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Dog Is Stung By Bees 155 Times

A family in La Habra is keeping a close watch on their dog after it was stung 155 times by a swarm of bees.

The dog is now at home recovering after being released from an emergency animal hospital.

"My neighbor came over and basically informed us that our dog was getting attacked by bees in our backyard, so my first reaction was to go back there and save her," said the dog's owner. He asked a friend to help him rescue the dog.

"Me and him, both, put on these big polo jackets, and went out there, and there were just too many," said his friend. "There was a swarm around the gate when we were trying to open it, so we had to actually run from the bees."

A vet removed a total of 155 stingers from the dog. The vet's bill was about \$2,000.

The dog's owner believes that the bees came from a neighbor who has bee hives in their backyard.

"We asked for the bees to be removed because we don't know when it is going to happen again," said the dog's owner. "We just want to know we're safe in our backyard, so as of now, they have been removed."

A news reporter reached out to the beekeeper in the neighborhood, but got no response.

Ladies and gentlemen, bees are great for the environment and we need them. However, you really need to be careful when you set up a bee hive in a residential area. If nothing else, talk to your insurance agent about it. An attack like this could "really make a personal injury attorney's day".



"Termite" Terry Singleton