

"TERMITE" TERRY'S INSIDER INFORMATION

TOP SECRET

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New Animal Invaders Are Attacking Lawns In Orange County

Most people have seen how gophers can destroy lawns, playgrounds and ball fields. One day these places will look great, but in a very short time, gophers can dig so many holes and tunnels in the ground that these lawns, playgrounds and ball fields are hardly safe to walk on. Controlling gophers is no problem. It may take some time to gain control, but we've got some very good products and tools and we can take care of it for you.

But, over the past couple of years, a new problem animal has come to Orange County. People are seeing what they think are gopher holes and they're hiring pest control technicians to do gopher treatments. Unfortunately, a lot of pest technicians are finding out that what they are doing isn't working. "Why not?", you ask. The reason that the gopher treatments aren't working may be simply that there is a new pest in Orange County . . .

MOLES!

Moles are a pest that we didn't see much of in Orange County until the past couple of years and no one seems to know why or how they came here. They are small mammals that spend most of their lives in underground burrows. They are rarely seen by humans. If you did spot

one, you might mistake it for a mouse.

Look at a mole and the big thing that stands out about them is that they have large, paddle-like forefeet with huge toenails. That helps them to "swim" through the soil. Their legs are very strong, they have short necks and their heads are elongated. They don't have external ears and their eyes are hardly noticeable because they are so very small.



The "Scapanus latimanus" or "Broad-footed" Mole is the specie that we have living here in Orange County.

Moist, sandy loam soils in lawns, gardens and pastures are where they prefer to live. They build extensive underground tunnel systems and with our mild climate, their passageways are often close to the surface.

Moles have large appetites and can eat 70 to 80 percent of their weight daily. Earthworms and grubs are their favorite food and they actively feed day and night.

When you have mole activity in a lawn or field, you'll usually see ridges of up heaved soil. The ridges are

(continued)

July Is National Grilling Month. Here's some trivia;

The first hamburger made its international debut at the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904. Fletcher "Old Dave" Davis, of Athens Texas, described his burger as a classic, greasy burger served on just-out-of-the oven slices of bread and garnished with mayonnaise, sliced onion and pickles.

"What you need most to be successful and happy in America are a dream, a dedicated work ethic and an alarm clock."

Ted Nugent

Rave Reviews!

In the past 24 years since Dr. Mull and I established our Chiropractic practice, we have dealt with tradesmen and service people too numerous to mention. However, this is the first time I have felt compelled to write a letter of commendation.

Your employee D.J. Salamin first came to our office with another technician to research the source of our problems with rodent infestation. Although D.J. appears young in age, I was pleasantly surprised with his personable demeanor, professional thoroughness and tactful verbal reports while in the presence of patients. It is truly rare to meet a young man who handles himself well and maturely.

D.J. is a terrific testimony to the caliber of men you hire. I have also reported our pleasure with your services to our property manager, Mohammed.

Terry L. Mull, Office Coordinator Mull Chiropractic, Long Beach

A friend of mine recommended that I get a second opinion before buying our new home, and after viewing the huge amount of resources on the Termite Terry web site, I felt confident giving Termite Terry the re-inspection job.

They uncovered previously unidentified areas of subterranean termite activity and found more areas of termite infestation that could eventually compromise the home's structure (i.e. we needed to have some pretty major wood replacement done).

Without this very thorough inspection, we would never have known about many of the problem areas in our home. They did a great job and our inspector was very friendly, informative and willing to answer all of my questions and concerns.

Neal Burns
Costa Mesa

created where their runways are constructed, as they go back and forth foraging for food. You may also see a few "Molehills". They are cone shaped mounds of course soil and dirt clods that may be brought up to the surface as moles build deep, permanent tunnels and nesting cavities. Typically, you won't see very many of these mole hills.

People often confuse mole activity with that of gophers. But, gophers don't construct raised ridges or surface tunnels. Gophers dig two types of tunnels. One is 5 to 8 inches below the surface and the other may be several feet deep. And, gophers construct many mounds that contain about one-half gallon of finely sifted soil.

When you set out to control these pest, it's important to remember that moles are insectivorous, they prefer to eat insects and they eat little vegetation. Gophers are herbivorous and feed on a wide variety of vegetation. In other words, if you try and feed moles a **grain type of gopher bait, they probably won't eat it.** But, if you use a **bait that looks and is shaped like an earthworm,** the mole will grab it and eat it.

Until recently, there was no proven bait for moles. Trapping was probably one of best control methods, but it was labor intensive and very costly to do.

The folks at Bell Laboratories went to work on solving the problem. They invested a whole bunch of money and did more than three years of groundbreaking research. The product that they developed is really interesting because it **looks and is shaped exactly like an earthworm.** And, currently, **it is the industry's first and only proven mole bait.**

If you suspect that you have a mole problem, **call us at (949)631-7348** and we'll stop by and take a look at it for you. If you do have a mole infestation, the first thing we need to do is determine where the surface tunnels are located. Then, we need to find out which ones are currently active so we'll know where to place the bait. And, **the results you're looking for may occur in as little as 24 hours.**

Why Don't Subterranean Termites Swarm Like They Used To?

Back in the 1990's, telephones at pest control companies were ringing off the hook during the months of February, March and April. So many people were calling us and telling us their stories about how thousands of subterranean termites were flying around the insides of their homes. They wanted their problems fixed – Right Now! We were working really hard and we treated a lot of homes, but there was no way that we could keep up with the demand in those days.

Compare those times with what we've seen over the past eight or nine years and all you'll get is a *big yawn*. Oh, we still get calls about subterranean termite problems, but the number of calls must only be about 10 percent of what they used to be. What happened??

Well, Dr. Phil Koehler of the University of Florida believes he knows why termite swarms are scarce and that is because they are now seeing something new –

"Wingless crawling termites".

Dr. Koehler says that termites don't have to fly to mate. So now, the termites just crawl off by the thousands to form new colonies.

Over the years, I've inspected a lot of homes that had subterranean termite swarms and I must confess that if it weren't for the swarms, I would have never known that the termites were even there. I mean it! You can look everywhere, you don't see any damage, there are no mud tunnels and there's no way that anyone would ever know that the termites were even there without opening up the ceilings and walls!

If this new trend continues

and subterranean termites keep crawling to find their new mate instead of swarming, a lot of homeowners will never receive fair warning that they have a termite problem.

“Dr. Koehler says, “It’s like having a smoke alarm without a battery in it. If you have termites right now, you could have significant damage and not have any sign of it.”

Dr. Koehler and his research associate, Roberto Pereira, believe that there are two factors that have kept termite swarms to a minimum. They are: Better termite control methods and severe draught conditions.

Subterranean termites need a lot of moisture and when we have periods of draught like we’ve had for years, the termites have to go deeper in the ground to find it. Dr. Koehler and his associate believe that since the termites have had to stay underground for so long, that may be why they lost their wings.

With what you’ve learned from this article, I hope you are reminded of how important it is to have your home inspected for termites on an annual basis. Another important point is that if you are lucky enough to see termites swarming in your home, you really should be grateful and you should take advantage of the warning and have your home treated before things get worse.

And, last but not least, you heard Dr. Koehler mention that “**better control methods**” were making a difference. One of the **best control methods** you can take advantage of is by having a “**preventative termite treatment**” done on your home. That’s where we treat your home’s foundation with Termidor. The entire exterior perimeter of the foundation, usually the interior walls of the garage and other key areas, such as

bath traps should be treated as specified in the manufacturer’s label. For homes with raised foundations, the interior perimeter of the foundation, all pier post and plumbing in contact with the ground should be treated as well. Again, all treatments should be done in accordance with the label.

I know that there are guys out there that will walk around your home with a “*squirt gun*” for a few minutes, they’ll charge you a lot less than we do and then they’ll say that everything is O.K.. But, *that ain’t the way that the instructions tell you to do it!*

We always do our treatments by the book and that is why we are the only company that can offer you a **Money Back Guarantee!** If you see a colony of live subterranean termites in your home after we do our complete treatment, not only will we come back and retreat your home for **FREE**, I’ll also write you a check and **refund all your money!**

“How can I afford to offer a money back guarantee like that?” you ask. Well, all I can say is that it’s easy – If you do the job the right way and you use a great product like Termidor. Ask anyone in our office about how many complaints we get about our subterranean termite treatments and the answer will be, NONE!

Call us at (949) 631-7348 to schedule an appointment. We’ll do a thorough inspection of your home and you’ll learn how you can help prevent termites from damaging your home!



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The Story Of Independence Day

The Fourth of July is a federal holiday where we commemorate the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4th, 1776. That’s when our government declared independence from the Kingdom of Great Britain.

The legal separation of the American Colonies occurred during the American Revolution on July 2nd, 1776. That’s when the Second Continental Congress voted to approve a resolution of independence, proposed in June, by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia. After the vote, Congress went to work creating the statement of the Declaration of Independence. This was prepared by a committee and Thomas Jefferson was the principal author. After debate and revisions, the Declaration was approved on July 4th.

On July 1st, John Adams wrote to his wife Abigail;

“The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more.”

You’ll note that Adam’s prediction was off by two days. July 2nd was when Congress signed the resolution in a closed session. July 4th is the date you’ll see on the actual Declaration of independence and that’s the date that Americans have always celebrated.

The Declaration was signed by Thomas Jefferson and John Adams. Did you know that they both died on July 4th 1826, on our country’s 50th anniversary? What a coincidence!

A FREE Monthly Newsletter for Friends and Clients of:

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Final thoughts...

We've all heard the stories about Salmonella outbreaks this year. The first big story at the beginning of this year was about contaminated peanuts from a wholesaler in Georgia where they discovered a huge rodent infestation. In April there was the big story about the pistachio processing plant where they found traces of Salmonella and this week they're recalling products made with non-fat dry milk! But, the one story that we're not hearing about is how close to home these stories hit. You see, it's not just about processed foods. If you have a pet or your home has an infestation of mice, you need to be concerned, too.

Most people are infected because they come in contact with animal feces and when you live in an apartment or home that has an infestation of mice, your risk of being exposed to Salmonella are greatly increased. That's because mice defecate and urinate everywhere they travel. Of course, mice will eat right through boxes, packaging and they contaminate billions of dollars worth of food, as well. Dog owners are required to pick up their feces and that puts them at particularly high risk. Contact with cat and bird feces puts their owners and families at risk, too. The Center of Disease Control estimates about 40,000 cases of Salmonellosis are reported each year. The actual number could be thirty or more times greater because mild cases often go unreported.

It's really important that you to protect food sources and carefully wash your hands – especially after you have contact with your pet or when you visit the bathroom. If you suspect a problem with rodents in your home or business, you need to call us for a thorough inspection at (949) 631-7348. Salmonella can be deadly and it's no laughing matter!



"Termite" Terry Singleton