

Four-Legged Detectives Visit the Library

For immediate release

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The Grande Prairie Public Library recently had a visit from two cute and cuddly detectives. Baron, a specially trained Bouvier and his partner Guinness, a Schnauzer, are from Certified Detection Dogs. These special dogs discover the hiding places of bedbugs, with training similar to that of dogs that find explosives or narcotics.

“We have not had any sightings of bedbugs in the Library, but we’ve put a series of measures in place for early detection,” says Library Director Maureen Curry. “Our staff inspect materials when they’re returned and have been trained to look for signs”.

“Although the name bedbug suggests that they are limited to your sleeping quarters, they can be found almost everywhere,” says Donna Birzgalis, owner of Certified Detection Dogs. “They can live in areas that you come in contact with every day.” Says Curry, “Bedbugs are hitchhikers that can travel on bags or clothing, but library books are not their preferred home as there is no food source.”

Baron and Guinness, along with their handlers, worked their way through both the staff and public areas at the Library looking for the scent of bed bugs. “Public buildings run the possibility of being a transfer point,” says Curry. “A few potential hotspots were identified, but those were inspected and treated by a professional exterminator who found no evidence of bedbugs.”

What should customers do if they suspect they’ve found something on a book? “We’ve recently received a report of a customer finding something in their Library materials while at their residence,” says Curry. “In these cases we recommend that the materials be placed in a resealable bag and returned to us for identification and treatment.”

As for Baron and Guinness, Library staff will see their furry friends again. “We will be having regular, yearly inspections with the dogs,” says Curry. “Our Library customers can be assured that we will continue to be well ahead of any potential issues.”

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