



# PEST-SNIFFING DOGS



by Meish Goldish

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K-9 Detectives, LLC**

**BEARPORT**  
PUBLISHING

New York, New York

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Publisher: Kenn Goin

Editorial Director: Adam Siegel

Creative Director: Spencer Brinker

Design: Dawn Beard Creative

Photo Researcher: Daniella Nilva

## *Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data*

Goldish, Meish.

Pest-sniffing dogs / by Meish Goldish.

p. cm. — (Dog heroes)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN-13: 978-1-61772-454-1 (library binding)

ISBN-10: 1-61772-454-8 (library binding)

1. Detector dogs—Juvenile literature. 2. Search dogs—Juvenile literature. I. Title.

SF428.2.G656 2012

636.73—dc23

2011043248

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For more information, write to Bearport Publishing Company, Inc., 45 West 21st Street, Suite 3B, New York, New York 10010. Printed in the United States of America in North Mankato, Minnesota.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



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# A Disturbing Find

One morning in 2010, a family in Brooklyn, New York, was preparing to move into a new house. Most of their belongings were already packed up in boxes. The mother was worried, however, because the night before, she had found a dead **bedbug** floating in a bathtub.

Bedbugs got their name because they often gather in beds to bite people when they are sleeping.



Bedbugs are hard to see. They are only about one-eighth to one-quarter inch (3.2 to 6.4 mm) long.



Were more of the tiny **pests** living in the family's home? To make sure the bedbugs didn't travel in any boxes or furniture to the new house, the parents called for a pest **inspector** to search for the **insects**—only the inspector who arrived wasn't a person. He was Cruiser, a dog!




Cruiser is a type of dog called a puggle—a cross between a pug and a beagle.



# Bug Hunt

Cruiser began to inspect the home for bedbugs. First he carefully sniffed all the boxes that held the family's belongings. Within a few minutes, he **determined** that none of them contained any pests. Then the dog walked around to check out the furniture.

Bedbugs are often hard to find because they can crawl inside the tiny openings in furniture.

A close-up photograph of a bedbug on a wooden surface, surrounded by its eggs. The bedbug is reddish-brown with dark stripes on its back. The eggs are small, white, and oval-shaped. The background is a warm, orange-brown color, possibly wood or fabric.

Bedbugs can hide in many items, including nightstands, carpets, clothing, furniture, luggage—even telephones and clocks!



Cruiser sniffed a wooden crib in one of the children's rooms. He pawed at the mattress. It was his way of saying, "I smell bedbugs here." The mother was upset but also grateful. Thanks to Cruiser, the insects could now be **exterminated**. They would not be moving with the family into their new home.



Cruiser smelled bedbugs hiding inside a mattress.

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## About the Author

Meish Goldish has written more than 200 books for children. His book *Heart-Stopping Roller Coasters* was a Children's Choices Selection in 2011. He lives in Brooklyn, New York.



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# PEST-SNIFFING DOGS

One morning in 2010, a pest inspector arrived in Brooklyn, New York, to search a home for bedbugs—only the inspector wasn't a person. He was a dog named Cruiser! After carefully smelling most of the furniture in the house, Cruiser approached a wooden crib in one of the children's rooms. Would the pest sniffer find what he was looking for? Look inside to learn more about Cruiser and other pest-sniffing dogs that use their keen sense of smell to keep pesky insects under control.

Baghdad Pups

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Combat-Wounded Dogs

Disaster Search Dogs

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Eco Dogs

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**BEARPORT**  
PUBLISHING

[www.bearportpublishing.com](http://www.bearportpublishing.com)

ISBN-13: 978-1-61772-454-1



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9 781617 724541