

Pest Detection Dog Code of Practice

Australia & New Zealand

Draft Ver. 7.1



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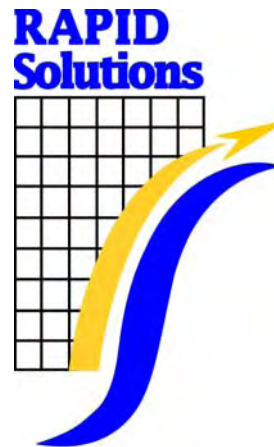
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Pest Detection Dog Code of Practice

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1.0

Preface (by Graham Hellier July 2007)

Pest Detection Dogs were first introduced into Sydney by A major Australia wide company in 1993/94 as Termite Detection Dogs. However, the company closed its Pest Detection Dog division about 18 months later when it was found that the Dogs would not work an eight hour day, five to six days per week. The company has also lost dog to a tick and was finding it very costly to train replacement handlers when people left.

Shane Clarke of Pestforce, Sydney, purchased a professionally trained dog, Alf. He then further trained Alf and introduced his now famous Pest Detection Dog about the same time as the major Australia wide company stopped. Shane's dog was also a Termite Detection Dog. For some years Shane and Alf were contracted out to a number of other Timber Pest Management firms in the greater Sydney area. Alf became famous because Shane and he got lots of publicity ranging from newspaper stories through to radio news items, talkback shows and some great TV coverage. For many years Shane and his Termite Detection Dog were the only Pest Detection Dog team in Australia.

Enter John Elder of Elders Pest Control. John trained his first Pest Detection Dog Stella in 2003.

In 2004 Peter Arnold of Termite Doctors initiated the training of two Beagles, Sherlock and Millie. These Beagles started active service for Peter in mid 2005.

In 2005 John purchased a professionally trained beagle named Ellie. Ellie turned out to be a really exceptional Termite Detection Dog. Ellie has been used on numerous occasions by AQIS to find exotic termites such as Formosan termites in ships, boats and containers.

John soon found himself totally involved in developing Pest Detection Dogs to a new level. He left the running of Elder's Pest Control to his son and wife as Pest Detection Dogs soon became his full time role.

In 2005 John started training Australia's and possibly the world's first Bedbug Detection Dog, Bella. Bella started working commercially in early 2006. John had set the standard for all others to follow when it came to housing, transporting and on-going dog training. John has trained a number of dogs for others and his own use.

In early 2007 John trained a new dog, Jonie. Jonie was purchased by John Morley of Taupo and became New Zealand's first Pest Detection Dog. Jonie, a Bedbug Detection Dog, travels throughout New Zealand. John Morley became so busy that he purchased a second Pest Detection Dog from John Elder.

Over the years a number of other termite management firms have obtained professionally trained Termite Detection Dogs.

Many handlers sought help from John who always gave of his time willingly, even taking other people's dogs into his care to further train them. He improved many a dog handler by lending them one of his dogs so the dog could train the handler. However, John could see that if a Code of Practice was not introduced then Australia and New Zealand could go the same way as the USA and end up with many pest control firms claiming to use Pest Detection Dogs when really they had untrained family pets. Already one or two have appeared in Australian cities.

In 2005, John and I organised for a number of Pest Detection Dog handlers including Shane Clarke and some other dog handlers to meet one evening during the AEPMA Conference. The meeting, chaired by the then AEPMA Executive Officer, Allen Morley. All agreed to work together to write a Pest Detection Dog Code of Practice (PDDCP). The Pest Detection Dog Code of Practice for Australia and New Zealand that resulted is the outcome of the work of a small number of people.

The Code sets out the minimum standards for the care, housing, training of both the dog and its handler, transport, working conditions and overall welfare of Pest Detection Dogs. This Pest Detection Dog Code of Practice is believed to be a world first.

2.0 Introduction

The most common use of dogs is in the detection of subterranean termites. They are now also used to detect bedbugs. However, dogs may also be trained to detect a range of other pests such as rats or mice. It is claimed by AQIS that dogs can be trained in multiple detection eg drugs, fruit and vegetables. So it may be possible to train a PDD to detect more than one Pest. However, if a PDD was trained to find termites and bedbugs the handler could not be sure of what pest the PDD was indicating, termites or bedbugs. The only multiple skilling that is possible and that should be carried out is training a PDD to detect a number of different genres of the one type of pest.

Termite Detection Dogs (“TDD”) are important tools for the pest management industry. When trained and handled correctly, such dogs can be of great value in determining the presence and location of live Australian subterranean termites that may be undetectable by trained termite inspectors. By using expertly trained dogs, the pest management professional may be successful in the location of termites that may not have been identified in other ways. Finding the entry points increases the chances of successful treatment in accordance with Australian Standards for termite management.

Bedbug Detection Dogs (BDDs) are proving to be very valuable in the detection of bedbugs in structures, trains, aircraft and ships. BDD find bedbugs at all stages of development including the first instar nymph stage. A well trained BDD and handler constitute a very effective team for detecting bedbugs during an inspection often achieving results more quickly and efficiently than even the best trained person. However, like TDD, the BDD and handler must be properly trained.

Dogs are more efficient when trained and used for the detection of a specific pest. Thus TDD would not normally be trained as BDD.

3.0 Aims of the Code

The code aims at setting out a minimum standards and guideline for the education of pest managers who have or are considering obtaining a PDD. The code aims to give best practice guidelines on the training, sent reinforcement, housing, transport, use and safety of PDD. Because the use of PDD is proving to be highly effective in the finding of termites and bedbugs, the PDDCP Working Group hope that the PDDCP will be an aid to professional PDD owners in educating and obtaining wide acceptance of the Code by the Pest Management, Accommodation, Public Transport and the public Already BBDD have proved to be very successful in the detection of bedbugs in hotel and trains, thus reducing the cost of treatment and check the success of the treatment. This inturn has greatly reduced the time hotel rooms, sleeper carriages etc are off-line.

4.0 Pest Detection Dog Code of Practice Review Procedure

The Pest Detection Dog Code of Practice Working Group will closely monitor the new Pest Detection Dog Code of Practice for first year or two. As this is the first Code the only way to test and correct it is to put it into use. It is expected that the Working Group will need to fully review the Code within the two year period.

The PDDCP will be superseded by the next edition and each subsequent edition will replace the edition it supersedes.

The PDDCP Working Group is made up of people who are either PDD trainer or handlers or both and other people who have expertise in pest management and insurance. Several hold a Diploma in Work Place Training and Assessment while others hold Certificate IV in Asset Management – Pest Management. The Working Group also has a Senior Entomologist - Urban & Commercial Pest Management and Senior Visiting Fellow from the Faculty of Science of the University of NSW.

The make up of the Working Group will change from time to time as members resign or the AEPMA or the PMANZ or the Working Group see a benefit in asking a new person to join the committee.

The Code will be made freely available on www.pestdog.com.au and www.pestdog.co.nz. Comments may be made on the PDDCP at the same website or may be sent to Graham Hellier at

graham@pacifintins.com or to Locked Bag 3, CARDIFF NSW 2285. It is expected that both the AEPMA and the PMANZ will also make the PDDCP available on their respective websites.

5.0 Terms and Definitions

“Bedbug Detection Dog (BDD)”	Means: A dog specifically trained to detect the odour and indicate the presence of live bedbugs.
“Certification Testing”	Means annual testing of the PDD by selected members of the working party.
“Development Phase”	Means: The period of time that is a dog specifically trained to detect the scent and presence of live pests.
“Handler”	Means: A person that has been trained and certified to relevant standards to handle an operational PDD.
“Hides”	Means: A container that allows free movement of air containing either the odour of the Pest or a live Pest that the PDD is looking to find.
“Pest Detection Dog (PDD)”	Means: A dog specifically trained to detect the odour and indicate the presence of live specified pest.
“Pest”	Means: Pests of the Urban Environment and does not include pests of agriculture or forestry.
“Termite”	Includes live subterranean termite species native to Australia present at the time of the inspection.
“Termite Detection Dog (TDD)”	Means: A dog specifically trained to detect the odour and indicate the presence of live subterranean termites.
“Trainer”	Means: A person suitably qualified to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss the training of PDD’s with the client. 2. Source and select suitable dogs for training. 3. Train the dogs to develop the skills of a PDD. Provide ongoing development advice and support to the handler
“Training Facility”	Means: An establishment that meets all criteria to successfully support the training of Pest Detection Dogs and their handlers.
“Training Process”	Means: To expose the dog to temperament and role specific exercises that will develop a required behaviour.

6.0 Limitations

There are and will be areas of a property where the use of a PDD is not possible or unwise. These limitations on the use of a PDD to detect pests would include but would not be limited to: -

1. Areas that are considered by the handler to be unsafe for the PDD for any reason;
2. Areas that are considered for the handler to venture into;
3. The presence of dust, insecticides, furniture, office furniture and equipment, stored goods or rubbish;
4. The general inhospitality of an area;
5. The crawl spaces are too low for the dog and/or the handler, eg roof voids and under-floors;
6. Dangerous areas, high voltage transformers, heavy machinery.

7.0 Scope

This Code of Practice describes the fundamental requirements for training and handling Pest Detection Dogs (PDD) and their involvement in the Pest Detection process. The purpose of this document is:

- a. To promote and assure the accuracy and integrity of the PDD inspection process;
- b. To enhance the public awareness and understanding of canine pest detection, its benefits and shortcomings;
- c. To define, develop, promote and maintain minimum standards of best practice for the canine pest detection process, the pest dog trainers, the dog training process, dog inspections and dog handler activities and the conditions of the pest dog operations;
- d. To provide a method by which the public can judge if a claimed PDD and handler are true professionals.
- e. To promote co-operative efforts between pest managers, pest management associations, insurers, the public and dog trainers in acquiring and maintaining acceptable levels of proficiency and to promote further research and development; and
- f. To establish a Pest Detection Dog Working Group with the above goals.

8.0 Pest Detection Dog Training Facility

A Training facility must meet the following minimum requirements. It must: -

- a. Utilise a system of records and reports including but not limited to:
 - i. A training plan;
 - ii. Initial Canine Evaluation Report for determining suitability of any prospective PDD;
 - iii. Health Certification Report per dog;
 - iv. Daily Training Log Report per dog;
 - v. Training Evaluation Report per dog;
 - vi. Development Reports per dog.
- b. Utilise a system of management practices including but not limited to:
 - i. Kennel management including clean and airy kennels seasonally suitable with sufficient runs and exercise areas;
 - ii. Veterinarian Care;
 - iii. Equipment, water and Food;
 - iv. [Undergo regular audits by the appropriate State Government Animal Welfare Authority.](#)

- c. Maintain a current, valid Public Liability Insurance Policy of no less than five million dollars (\$5,000,000) and current valid Professional Indemnity Policy of no less than five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000).

9.0 Pest Detection Dog Trainer

The PDD Trainer is the first key element in the process. Unless the canine candidate is carefully selected, properly trained and maintained it will be unable to successfully perform to high standards over its working life. This level of experience is crucial and goes to the trainers' ability to select, assess, train and develop potential dogs. As a general guide professional trainers would be Members of a [recognised](#) Association of Professional Dog Trainers.

It is **critical** that the Trainer not only have experience in the dog training process but that the Trainer also has the knowledge and ability to train a PDD that can perform well and pass an initial certification of its abilities to meet minimum standards.

The Trainer must comply with all relevant Commonwealth, State or New Zealand Acts and Regulations including Council requirements that are applicable to the area in which they train.

- a. A PDD Trainer must have the following:
 - i. A minimum of 2 years working in problem solving and obedience;
 - ii. A minimum of 2 years experience in training and developing dogs for special uses eg obedience, agility training, tracking and competition;
 - iii. A minimum of 3 years experience in training dogs for detection applications including, pest, quarantine, drugs, etc;
 - iv. Experience in training Dogs for inspection purposes in the workplace working alongside a qualified Pest Manager.



Harriers also make good Pest Detection Dogs

10.0 The Pest Detection Dog

The Pest Detection Dog is the working part of the pest detection process. It is critical that the PDD be trained to standards that will enable it to properly locate and indicate the presence of live pests. The following is a listing of the basic skill sets and underlying standards that the dog shall meet:

a. **Basic Standards:** The PDD shall:

- i. be housebroken;
- ii. be proficient in obedience commands;
- iii. possess the following qualities:
 - a quiet temperament, suitable for insect detection;
 - generally not be a barker and silent when required to be;
 - a temperament compatible with the handler;
 - friendliness towards strangers, children and clients;
 - lack of aggressiveness towards other dogs;
 - **only dogs with short coat should be trained as BDD.**
- iv. be trained to be comfortable in a transport enclosure for extended periods of time and travel;

b. **Health Standards**

The PDD shall be housed and handled in accordance with appropriate animal legislation. It shall meet the following minimal health standards which shall be certified by a Veterinarian at least annually.

The PDD shall:

- i. be free of heartworm and external and internal parasites;
- ii. maintain a healthy weight;
- iii. be maintained in such a way that the PDD has a shiny coat free of scaling skin and without an offensive smell;
- iv. be maintained in such a way that it has clean teeth in a white condition;
- v. be free of heat spots or other skin disorders;
- vi. be maintained in such a way that it has nails that are short-cut and ears that are clean and free of excessive wax;
- vii. be maintained in such a way that it has a regular diet plan, appropriate to its breed with a variety of food, which may include canned food, dry foods, fresh meat, chicken and fish. Food must be hygienically prepared and stored appropriately eg meet, chicken and fish below 4°C;
- viii. be provided with food and water containers which are not chewable , not easily spilled or overturned, are readily accessible by the PDD and not easy to contaminate with either urine or faeces:
- ix. , in the case of adult PDD, be feed at least daily while pups up to 6 months must be feed at least twice daily;
- x. have its food always be served in containers and not directly onto the floor and uneaten food must be removed promptly so as not to spoil or attract rodents etc;
- xi. be protected as far as possible from diseases, distress and injury;
- xii. be seen by a Veterinarian should the PDD fall ill or get injured:

- xiii. be given daily supervised exercise of at least 30 minutes or walked on a lead for at least twice a day for at least 15 minutes to allow the PDD to urinate and defecate;
- xiv. be provided with fresh, clean and cool water when housed and regularly periods during a working day;
- xv. be provided with the appropriate quantity and variety of high quality food;
- xvi. be kept free of fleas and ticks at all times;
- xvii. , in the case of BDD, be checked that they are not carrying Bedbugs on there coats etc and if required it must be treated;
- xviii. have a current C5 vaccination or New Zealand equivalent each 12 months which must include vaccination against distemper, hepatitis, parvovirus and kennel cough and certificate issued;
- xix. be administered with heartworm prevention treatment as recommend by a Veterinarian and have a blood test every 6 months to check on the success;
- xx. have regular treatments against gastrointestinal worm as recommend by a Veterinarian;
- xxi. be checked at least twice per day including weekends and holidays to monitor general health and comfort. Such checks shall include the following: -
 - Eating normally
 - Drinking normally
 - Defecating normally
 - Urinating normally
 - Behaving normally
 - Appearance is normal
 - Is able to move freely
 - Has a normal looking coat;
- xxii. The PDD must have a microchip placed under the skin by a Veterinarian and be fitted with identification collar or tag stating the Name, address and phone number of the owner;
- xxiii. Veterinarian must see the PDD if one or more of the following signs are observed: -
 - Runny nose
 - Runny, discharging or inflamed eyes
 - Repeated sneezing
 - Coughing
 - Vomiting
 - Severe diarrhoea, or blood stained faeces
 - Lameness
 - Inability to stand or walk
 - Bleeding or swelling of body parts other than the vulva of bitches on heat
 - Weight loss
 - No appetite

- Apparent pain
- Fit or staggering
- Bloated abdomen
- Inability to urinate or defecate.

A PDD displaying the above must be isolated from other dogs unless otherwise advised by a Veterinarian;

- xxiv. Should a PDD become so ill or injured or for any other reason require euthanasia then this must be carried out by a Veterinarian;
- xxv. A record of each PDD must be kept that gives the name, sex, breed & Type, distinguishing features, dates of vaccinations, dates and reason for a Vet check, name of the Veterinarian, dates of heartworm medication & type, dates of worming medication & type and dates and reason for all other medications.



TDD at work find termites where there is no visual evidence

11.0 Housing and Transport

1. The PDD owner and handler must provide the PDD housing in a facility that meets the following minimum requirements: -
 - a. The shelter and yard must comply with all relevant Commonwealth, State or New Zealand Acts and Regulations including Council requirements that are applicable to the area in which they PDD is housed;
 - b. The shelter and yard must be located away from sources of noise and pollution so as not to cause the PDD stress or injury;
 - c. Warning signs must be clearly displayed at each entrance warning of the PDD presence within;
 - d. The shelter must provide protection from the sun, heat, cold, wind, rain, interference by unauthorised people and be maintained at a comfortable room temperature;
 - e. Outdoor kennels and yards must provide a fully enclosed shelter to protect the PDD from sun, heat, cold, wind and rain;
 - f. The temperature and humidity of indoor kennels and yards must be controlled using proper ventilation, fans and if required air conditioning to protect the PDD from extremes;
 - g. Ventilation must be such that the housing is free of dampness and unpleasant odours but be free of draughts;
 - h. Where two or more PDDs are housed in a facility where they need to be separated then the separation must be in such a manner that they can't fight or injury each other;
 - i. All housing and yards must be constructed of impervious, solid and washable materials with wall and floor joins ideally curved but sealed to facilitate cleaning and disinfecting;
 - j. The PDD housing must be fire resistant and have safety exits for staff and PDD to escape in the case of fire;
 - k. The PDD housing must be at least 3.7 metres long and at least 1.8 metres wide with fencing or wall at least 1.8 metres high;
 - l. Where two PDDs are compatible and are housed together then the PDD housing must be at least 7.4 metres long and at least 3.6 metres wide with fencing or wall at least 1.8 metres high;
 - m. Where possible lighting should be natural if using artificial lighting then the lights used should, as much possible, produce natural a light and should be turned off when ever possible between sundown and sunup;
 - n. Extra lighting may need to be provided to allow through cleaning and disinfection;
 - o. A clean dry bedding area must be raised on a wooden sleeping boards or ideally a trampoline–style bed that is large enough to provided comfort and is large enough for the PDD to stretch out, turn around on and curl up on;
 - p. Bedding must be cleaned or changed frequently and be kept dry;
 - q. A supply of fresh, clean cool water at all times;
 - r. The shelter must be designed and built in such a way as to discourage fleas, ticks, flies, lice, mosquitoes and rodents;
 - s. Any pesticide used to assist must be Registered, of low toxicity but effective and applied or used in stick accordance with the Label;
 - t. Faeces must be removed and flooring hosed at least daily;

- u. The PDD housing must be cleaned thoroughly and disinfected at least weekly and immediately before a new PDD is introduced to help prevent outbreaks of infection and diseases using a suitable effective and safe product in accordance with the product label;
 - v. The flooring and yard must be well drained so that water runs off;
 - w. Any collection drains must be fitted with mesh baskets to trap hair and waste materials and the baskets checked daily and clean as required;
 - x. The shelter must be lockable and dog proof and provide good protection from outside attack by other dogs or people;
 - y. Suitable facilities for bathing, drying and grooming the PDD must be available and must be hygienically maintained;
2. The PDD owner and handler must provide the PDD with regular high quality food;
 3. The PDD owner and handler must provide the PDD with exercise by walking the dog either on a lead or using a dog walker.
 4. At least twice per day and ideally more often the PDD owner and handler must allow the PDD access to a large yard that is fenced, safe and allows the PDD to relieve itself and socialise with other dogs if present;
 5. The PDD owner and handler must provide the PDD with; -
 - a. Secure and safe transport which can be in the form of special transport containers or a covered trailer that is divided into transport container size areas;
 - b. The Transport must be well ventilated and PDD must not be left in parked vehicles in the sun or during hot weather;
 - c. The transport must comply with all relevant Commonwealth, State or New Zealand Acts and Regulations including Council requirements that are applicable to the area in which the PDD is in;
 - d. Any transport must: -
 - protect dogs from injury
 - have non-slip floors - direct contact with metal flooring is to be avoided
 - provide safe, easy access and handler safety
 - protect against extremes of temperature
 - provide adequate ventilation
 - protect against unauthorised or accidental release of dogs
 - be easy to clean and disinfect
 - be fitted with clean, secure cages or with separate compartments or partitions if carrying more than one PDD
 - be kept clean.

Note: more information on correct transport may be found in the NSW Dept. Agriculture publication '*The Care and Management of Animals by Companion Animal Transport Agencies*' 1996.

- e. Clean cool water at regular intervals on long trips and at the end of all trips;
- f. A safe area to exercise and relieve itself at regular intervals on long trips and at the end of all trips.



The PDD must have Safe Transport (trailer with 4 cubical)

12.0 The Training Process

The training of a PDD requires that a training plan be used that outlines the training exercises to be completed. These training exercises must be conducted and initially documented by the Trainer. If a professionally trained dog is purchased, the dog will have been trained to indicate the presence of the odour of the live pest it was trained to find. The handler will then need to further train and develop the scent retention dog into a PDD. The skills to be developed in the PDD are detailed below and those skills must be proficiently demonstrated as part of a Certification Test.

a. Training Overview

The training process conducted by the Trainer must follow a set routine of behaviour development. The training must be conducted in a manner that matches the PDD's temperament but must not depart from standard training practices and methodologies. The training process will develop the PDD to its full potential with consideration to achieving the training goals in the shortest amount of time without compromising the proficiency of the PDD. The trainer should, if asked, be able to fully explain his or her training program, outlining goals and relevant time frames.

b. Training Skills and Goals:

The PDD shall undergo training that will develop the following skill sets that must be demonstrated:

- i. Clear and precise odour recognition;

- ii. Keeness to investigate prior to command;
- iii. Ability to carry out a basic search pattern under direction;
- iv. Ability to correctly indicate the presence of the odour of live pests that the dog is being trained to detect;
- v. Ability to focus on the handler and obey voice direction;
- vi. Ability avoid obvious distractions such as food and toys;
- vii. A solid work ethic as a base for development in workplace.

c. Training Standards:

The following are the minimum Standards to which the PDD will be trained prior to deployment with the client. The PDD must:

- i. Understand the search exercise and be able to conduct a search under command in a structured manner in a workplace environment;
 - For TDD this includes external walls, weep holes, internal rooms, cupboards, skirting and architraves, kitchen and meal preparation areas,
 - For a BDD this includes walls, carpet edges, fixtures and fitting, beds, bed base and furniture etc,
- ii. Be able to carry out a search under command both on and off the lead;
- iii. Be able to travel in a vehicle under proper restraint;
- iv. Recognise the odour of the live pest which it is trained to detect and indicate correctly the presence of that odour;
- v. The Trainer must comply with all relevant Commonwealth, State or New Zealand Acts and Regulations including Council requirements that are applicable to the area in which they train.

NOTE: At no time should the Pest Detection Dog's safety be put at risk in undertaking these activities.

13.0 The Pest Detection Dog Handler

a. Overview

The PDD Handler has a crucial role to play in the PDD Team. The handler provides ongoing maintenance training for the dog in the workplace to ensure proficiency is kept in the PDD Team. Under guidance from the trainer and in accordance with Pest Management Practices the handler must maintain a goal of constantly improving the PDD Team during the development phase. The handler must have an understanding of the limitations of the dog and must also know how to motivate, encourage and support the dog during the search routine.

The PDD Handler shall meet the following pre-requisites:

- i. Have an affinity toward dogs and have a good rapport with them.
- ii. Be selected by the employer, if applicable, as a suitable candidate.
- iii. Have good physical skills and be mentally alert.
- iv. Have a desire to learn the basic psychology related to detection dog handling.
- v. Have a willingness to commit many hours to the care and maintenance of the PDD and to improving the Pest Detection Team.
- vi. Have communication, literacy and numeracy skills.

- vii. Be a licensed Pest Manager with experience holding a Certificate III or IV or in New Zealand the National Certificate.
- viii. Be trained to basic standards prior to handling the PDD in the workplace.
- ix. The Handler must comply with all relevant Commonwealth, State or New Zealand Acts and Regulations including Council requirements that are applicable to the area in which they train.
- x. Be covered a current, valid Public Liability Insurance Policy of no less than five million dollars (\$5,000,000) and current valid Professional Indemnity Policy of no less than five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000).

NOTE: *People who for health or religious reasons cannot touch dogs are not suitable to be Handlers.*



Termite

13.1 Termite Detection Dog Handler:

The TDD Handler **shall not** rely on the TDD to wholly perform a termite inspection. The canine must be used in conjunction with an inspection in accordance with AS4349.3 or AS3660.2.

Note: Termites, officially, are not present in New Zealand or Tasmania. However, these two Standards are used when termites happen to be found there from time to time.

The following basic requirements are a listing of the basic skills sets and underlying standards that the TDD Handler shall meet: -

- a. Hold a Certificate III in Asset Maintenance – Pest Management including Units 8, & 10;
- b. Be proficient in the knowledge and execution of ‘Good Inspection Practices’ as per Australian Standards and best industry practice;
- c. Be able to confidently supply a written report of the findings made by the TDD to the client;
- d. Be capable of solving work ethic problems encountered in the workplace while working with a TDD;
- e. Be proficient in using basic commands to control the TDD;
- f. Be proficient in maintaining a daily training log recording the daily training of the TDD;
- g. Have the ability to perform the pre-inspection search of the premises to:
 - i. identify and have removed, elements hazardous to the TDD and the Handler;

- ii. identify and have removed, obstacles that might interfere with a search, such as: -
 - other pets, pet food, food scraps, bedding etc; and
 - furniture that might impede a search pattern; and
 - mobile phones which must be turned off during the search.
- iii. identify areas where a search cannot be conducted or restricted such as: -
 - sloped roofs because of the pitch;
 - roof voids because of space or structural integrity;
 - exposure to damaged dangerous wiring;
 - syringes on the floors or in crawl spaces;
 - crawl spaces that may pose a danger to the TDD;
 - anything else that may contravene the OS&H (OHS) laws.
- h. The TDD Handler must be able to identify any health problems being exhibited by the TDD during the work process and be able to take appropriate action. Some problems that can be encountered are:
 - i. Fatigue;
 - ii. Heat exhaustion;
 - iii. Chemical reaction or burns;
 - iv. Cut pads;
 - v. Nasal obstruction;
 - vi. Poisoning.
- i. Quality control is one of the most vital aspects of good TDD management. Continuous training with live termites, proofing against false alerts, and always using a controlled live hide in field settings are part of this. Verification through a live bedbug controlled hide must be carried out at least twice daily when no work is to be carried out and at every inspection.



Well handled Termite Detection Dog finds termites in a window sill.



Termite Detection Dog finds termites in the sub-floor.

13.2 Bedbug Detection Dog Handler:

The BDD Handler **shall not** rely on the BDD wholly to perform a bedbug inspection. The canine must be used in conjunction with an inspection in accordance with Bedbug Code of Practice (BBCP).

The BDD Handler shall:

- a. Be proficient in the knowledge and execution of 'Good Inspection Practices' as per the BBCP and best industry practice;
- b. Be able to confidently supply a written report of the findings made by the BDD to the client;
- c. Be capable of solving work ethic problems encountered in the workplace while working with a BDD;
- d. Be proficient in using basic commands to control the BDD;
- e. Be proficient in maintaining a daily training log recording the daily training of the BDD;
- f. Have the ability to perform the pre-inspection search of the premises to: -
 - i. Identify and have removed elements hazardous to the BDD and the Handler;
 - ii. Identify and have removed obstacles that might interfere with a search, such as: -
 - other pets, pet food, food scraps, bedding etc; and
 - furniture that might impede a search pattern; and
 - mobile phones which must be turned off during the search.
 - iii. Identify areas where a search cannot be conducted or restricted such as: -
 - sloped roofs;

- roof voids;
 - crawl spaces that may pose a danger to the BDD.
- g. Be able to identify any health problems being exhibited by the BDD during the work process and be able to take appropriate action. Some problems that can be encountered are: -
- i. Fatigue;
 - ii. Heat exhaustion;
 - iii. Chemical reaction or burns;
 - iv. Cut pads;
 - v. Nasal obstruction
 - vi. Poisoning.
- h. Applying Advantage Plus every month all year round is practiced in the USA to kill Bedbugs that happen to get on a BDD during inspections and is worth considering if this proves to be a problem. This treatment will also serve to prevent fleas and if applied every two weeks also kills ticks. When there are any hits or certain contact is made with bedbugs, use a Permethrin based spray over the dog taking care not to get it in the eyes, nose or mouth is used in the USA. In case of a severe infestation, the Permethrin spray would be applied before the dog was allowed back in the transport vehicle. Collars/halters should be removed from the dog, bagged and sealed until arrival back at the office, where the collars are treated with steam. Coats, if used, will need to be bagged and sealed until arrival back at the office, where washing in very hot water will be required. The Transport unit must be steam treated twice per week;
- i. Ensure that the dog is free of bedbugs and if unsure wash and groom the dog prior to kennelling or using the dog again.
- j. Ensure that the handler's overalls are bagged into a sealed plastic bag onsite prior to leaving if there is any chance of bedbug contamination being carried on them. (Required by the Bedbug Code of Practice (BBCP));
- k. Quality control is one of the most vital aspects of good BDD management. Continuous training with live bedbugs, proofing against false alerts, and always using a controlled live hide in field settings are part of this. Verification through a live bedbug controlled hide must be carried out at least twice daily when no work is to be carried out and at every inspection. Proofing must be carried out using live hides consist of a variety of bugs, from multiple adults down to microscopically confirmed viable eggs alone;
- l. The handler must find out what type of treatments has been carried out prior to a reinspection using the BDD. Great care will need to be taken in areas where insecticide dust has been applied as breathing this into the TDD nose may affect the sensitivity and thus the BDD ability to work.



Female Bedbug



Bedbug Detection Dog finds some bedbugs

14.0 Good Inspection Practices

14.1 Pre-Inspection Check List

A pre-inspection checklist should be provided to the property owner 24 hours (where possible) in advance of the inspection. The checklist outlines for the owner/occupier/agent, the inspection process and the preparation requirements they must fulfil for the inspection to take place. These include but may not be limited to the following requests:

- a. To remove any open foodstuff, pets, pet food, toys, water etc from the inspection areas;
- b. To ensure that radios, stereos and TV's are turned off and other noise is reduced or eliminated during the inspection;
- c. To ensure that minimal human activity occurs during the inspection;
- d. To shut down air conditioning units, heaters, ceiling fans at least 30 minutes prior to the inspection appointment;
- e. To ensure that all smoking materials are removed and that there is no smoking in the area to be inspected 2 hours prior to the inspection appointment;
- f. To move furniture and equipment so as to permit access to wall and skirting board areas;
- g. To remove any chemical from the inspection site, including household cleaners, automotive products, paints, pesticides, and baits;
- h. To remove open food stuff from the inspection areas;
- i. To notify persons involved in the inspection that the PDD is a Trained Working Dog and that socialisation with the PDD must be kept to a minimum and is controlled by the Handler;
- j. To notify persons involved that a site inspection by the Handler will take place before the PDD inspection takes place to identify any hazards.

14.2 Handler Check List

The Handler's self-checklist should detail the preparation requirements he should check prior to carrying out the inspection, this would include but may not be limited to confirmation that:

- a. Pets, pet food, toys, water etc. have been removed;
- b. Radios, stereos and TV's have been turned off and other noise is reduced or eliminated during the inspection;
- c. Minimal human activity occurs during the inspection;
- d. Air conditioning units, heaters, ceiling fans have been turned off at least 30 minutes prior to the inspection appointment;
- e. All smoking materials have been removed and there is no smoking in the area to be inspected 2 hours prior to the inspection appointment;
- f. Furniture and equipment has been moved so as to permit access to wall and skirting board areas;
- g. Any chemical has been moved from the inspection site, including household cleaners, automotive products, paints, pesticides, and baits;
- h. There are no open foodstuffs in the inspection areas;
- i. Notification has been served that the PDD is a Trained Working Dog and that socialisation with the PDD must be kept to a minimum and is controlled by the Handler;
- j. Notification has been served that a site inspection by the Handler will take place before the PDD inspection takes place to identify any hazards.

14.3 Preparing the PDD for the Inspection

The PDD Handler prepares the PDD for the inspection by:

- a. Cleaning the paws of the PDD if required. Dog boots may need to be worn;
- b. Cleaning the shoes or utilising foot coverings for the Handler;
- c. Ensuring that appropriate 'hides' are available on site;
- d. Having other appropriate cleaning materials, brushes, etc. available.

14.4 Handler Inspection

The PDD Handler shall inspect the site to assess the area to be searched and take appropriate actions to ensure a routine inspection of all of the above and in addition to identify:

- a. Any hot objects that might cause problems to the PDD's nose;
- b. Any syringes that could put the PPD at risk. If found then the inspection of beds may require the handle to check them first. If large numbers are found then the inspection should not be carried out until the owner of the premises has cleaned up or cancelled altogether.
- c. Any odours and eliminate their origin.

The PDD Handler and PDD should always move in the one direction and make sure the PDD inspects all possible areas during the movement around and through the premises. See the diagrams below ([Drawing provided by RAPID Solutions from their Client Termite Inspection Manual and is their Copyright](#)).

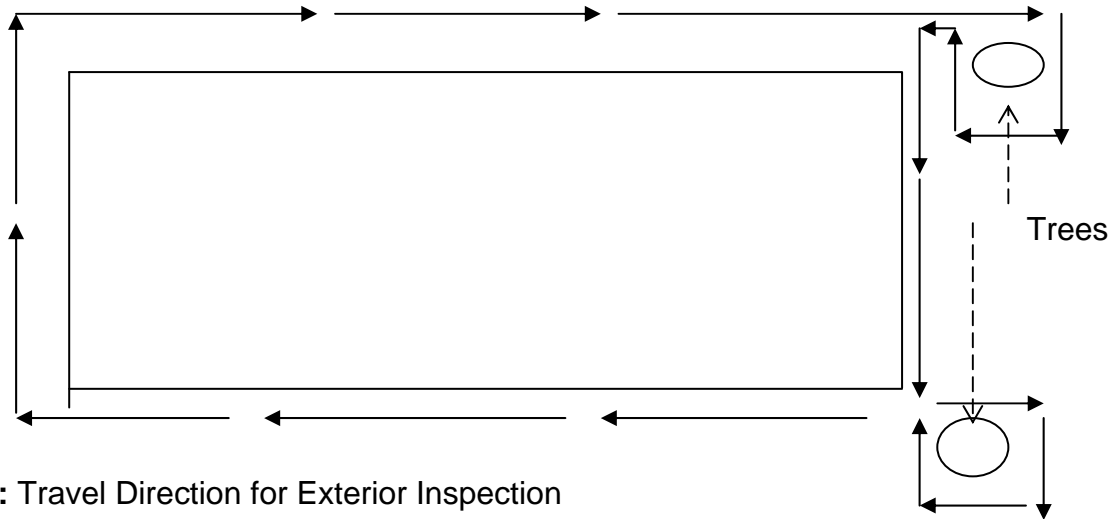


Figure 1: Travel Direction for Exterior Inspection

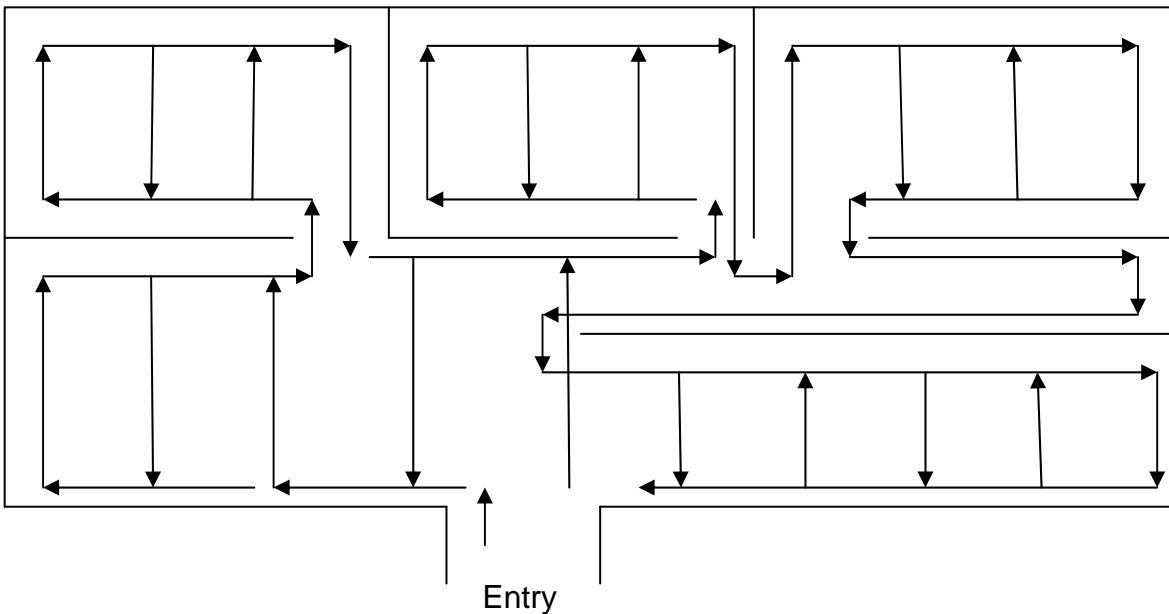


Figure 2: Travel Direction for Interior Inspection

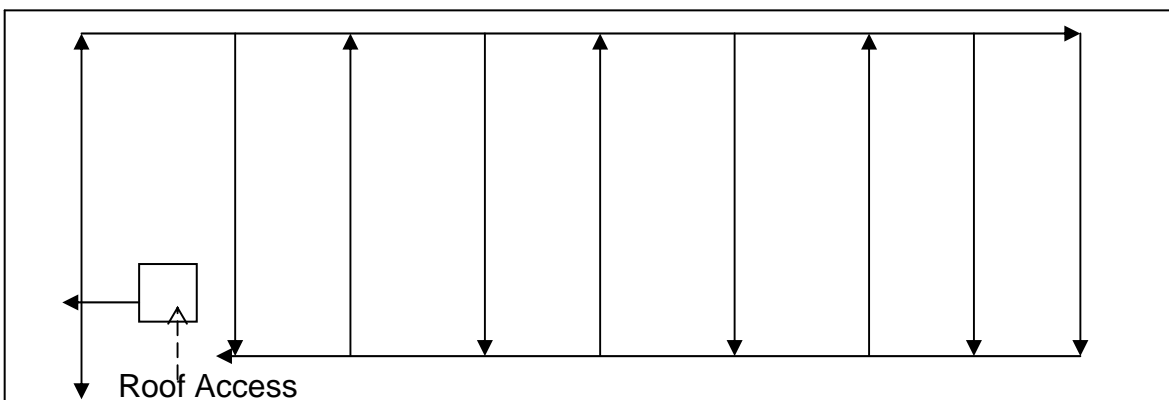


Figure 3: Travel Direction for Roof Void Inspection

Note: Roof void inspections by PDD are generally not considered safe due to the difficulty of access and the danger to the PDD caused by insulation and dust accumulation.

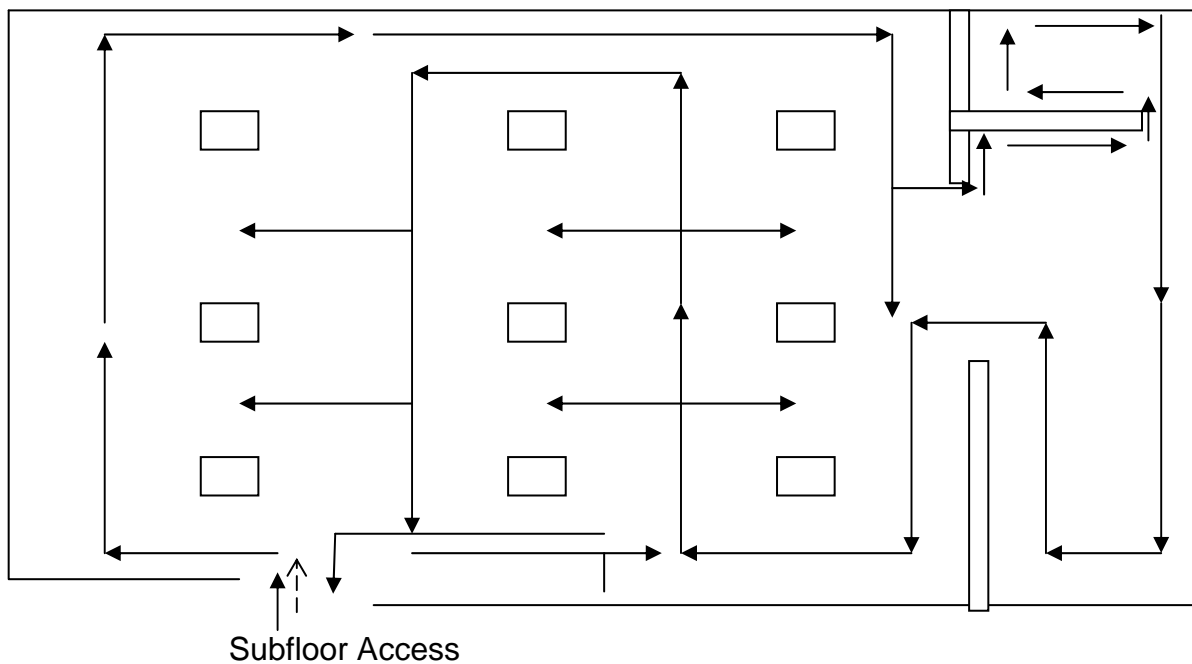


Figure 4: Travel Direction for Subfloor Inspection

Note: Under floor inspections by PDD may not be possible or safe due to the height of the crawl space and/or difficulty of access and the danger to the PDD caused by stored goods and dust accumulation.

14.5 Other Inspection Requirements

During the course of the inspection, the PDD handler shall:

- a. Use a control hide randomly;
- b. Validate findings with a proper and final indication;
- c. Exhaust all available means to have the TDD locate evidence of live subterranean termite activity and the locations of any indication in conjunction with relevant Australian Standards for Termite Management;
- d. Exhaust all available means to have the BDD locate evidence of live bedbug activity and the locations of any indication in conjunction with Bedbug Code of Practice;
- e. Exhaust all available means to locate evidence of live pest activity the PDD is trained to find and the locations of any indication in conjunction with best industry practices and any industry codes or standards;
- f. Maintain an Inspection Log.

15.0 Training Minimum Standards:

Handler Training: All new PDD handlers shall:

- a. Undertake a minimum of 110 hours of handler training by a PDD trainer which must include both theory and practical training with an full trained and experienced PDD which must include scent association;
- b. Have been given at least 10 hours advanced training for 2 hours per day field training with the PDD the new handler is taking over under the supervision of the trainer;
- c. The Testing Procedure will include exercises that require the Handler to demonstrate skills as a PDD handler.

PDD Training: All new PDD shall:

- a. Have been trained by a PDD trainer for a minimum of 50 hours protocol training for 2 hours per day - scent association training;
- b. The PDD must have been given at least 40 hours advanced training for 2 hours per day initial field training;
- c. The PDD shall show a positive reaction to the odour from **live pests** that the PDD has been trained to detect in a workplace environment. Thus:
 - The TDD shall show a positive reaction to termite odour from **live Subterranean Termites** in a workplace environment;
 - The BDD shall show a positive reaction to bedbug odour from **live Bedbugs** in a workplace environment;
- d. The PDD owner shall receive a Certificate from its Trainer after certification requirements are met. The PDD shall not leave the control of the Trainer until the basic training standards are achieved. The Certificate shall detail the Dog's Name, Breed, Sex, Age and Microchip Number, Certificate Number and a photo;
- e. If the trainer does not believe the PDD and/or the handler are working in a satisfactory manner then further training must be undertaken until the trainer is fully satisfied with the results;
- f. The PDD shall normally be limited to carrying out two normal inspections per day and shall not be required to undertake more than three;
- g. The PDD and the Handler shall only undertake inspections for the Pests that the PDD is expected to detect following advanced training in identifying these pests and proof of proficiency. Thus:
 - The TDD and Handler shall only undertake inspections for dry wood and imported termite species following advanced training in identifying the said species and proof of proficiency;
- h. Some handlers fail to work and train their dogs on a daily bases. Should it come to the attention of one of Associations or the PDDCD Working Group that a PDD is not receiving ongoing training and work then the PDD and handler may be required by the Chairman of the PDDCD Working Group to undergo re-testing.

15.1 Complaints Procedure:

All complaints must be taken seriously by the PDD handler and/or owner. In the first instance the matter should be handled internally and if possible brought to a satisfactory outcome. If however, the complainant is not happy with the results then the complainant must be advised to contact the AEPMA or the PMANZ. Who will inturn immediately notify the Chairman of the PDDCP Working Group.

The Chairman will appoint an Appeal Committee of at least three persons, chosen from Members of the PDDCP Working Group and other experts in dog training or Pest Detection Dogs as it sees fit. However, any person who has had or does have any relationship with the PDD or the handler/owner must be excluded.

The Appeal Committee: -

- a. will elect a Chairman and, time being the essence, act as quickly as possible to bring the matter to an end;
- b. will accept written, photographic, video or other evidence and hear from witnesses as it sees fit;
- c. may require the PDD and handler to carry out a test inspection or a re-inspection if it believes this will assist it in its deliberations;

- d. may seek advise from any other outside party that it considers may be of help in is deliberations. However, its deliberations shall be limited to matters relating to the grounds of the complaint;
- e. may uphold the complaint, deny it or order a new inspection;
- f. Will communicate its decision in a timely manner giving reasons for the decision;

The decision of the Committee shall be final for the PDD handler and/or owner. However, the complainant is free to take whatever action he or she sees fit.

16.0 The PDD Owner

The PDD is a valuable asset that can lose its value if daily training and the recommendations outlined in this code are not adhered to by the PDD owner. If the PDD fails to pass its annual certification it will not be able to continue to provide PDD activities.

In addition to the recommendations of this code, the owner must maintain accurate records as follows:

1. Canine health history and certification including the microchip number.
2. Records of proficiency.
3. Records of complaints.
4. Records of accomplishments.
5. Maintain insurance and records.

Finally, it is the responsibility of the Owner to maintain the highest ethics of the Australian Pest Management industry and the standards expected as a working dog handler.

17.0 Terms and Definitions

“Bedbug Detection Dog (BDD)”	Means: A dog specifically trained to detect the odour and indicate the presence of live bedbugs.
“Certification Testing”	Means annual testing of the PDD by selected members of the working party.
“Development Phase”	Means: The period of time that is a dog specifically trained to detect the scent and presence of live pests.
“Handler”	Means: A person that has been trained and certified to relevant standards to handle an operational PDD.
“Hides”	Means: A container that allows free movement of air containing either the odour of the Pest or a live Pest that the PDD is looking to find.
“Pest Detection Dog (PDD)”	Means: A dog specifically trained to detect the odour and indicate the presence of live specified pest.
“Pest”	Means: Pests of the Urban Environment and does not include pests of agriculture or forestry.
“Termite”	Includes live subterranean termite species native to Australia present at the time of the inspection.
“Termite Detection Dog (TDD)”	Means: A dog specifically trained to detect the odour and indicate the presence of live subterranean termites.
“Trainer”	Means: A person suitably qualified to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Discuss the training of PDD’s with the client. 5. Source and select suitable dogs for training. 6. Train the dogs to develop the skills of a PDD. Provide ongoing development advice and support to the handler
“Training Facility”	Means: An establishment that meets all criteria to successfully support the training of Pest Detection Dogs and their handlers.
“Training Process”	Means: To expose the dog to temperament and role specific exercises that will develop a required behaviour.

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CHAIRMAN: Stephen Ware

18.0 APPENDIX A – PDD Code of Practice Working Group

Name	Position	Affiliation
Peter Arnold	TDD Handler, Managing Director	Termite Doctors & Pest Management Services Pty Ltd
Chris Elder	General Manager	Elders Pest Control
John Elder	PDD Breeder, TDD Trainer & Handler, BDD Trainer & Handler, Director & Operations Manager PDD Division	Elders PPD Division
Keith Farrow	Bachelor of Science – Ag, Diploma Work Place Trainers & Assessors, Training Manager	RAPID Training Pty Ltd
Anthony S Hardy	TDD Handler, Owner Operator	Paradigm Pest Management
Graham Hellier	Diploma Work Place Trainers & Assessors, Certificate IV Asset Management – Pest Management, CEO	Pacific International Insurance Limited & RAPID Solutions Pty Ltd
Dennis Kelham	Director	Delta Force Pest Control
Dr. Chris Orton	Entomologist - Urban & Commercial Pest Management Senior Visiting Fellow, Faculty of Science	University of NSW
Mark Puckering	TDD Handler, Managing Director	Enviroguard Pest Control
Stephen Ware	Executive Director	Australian Environmental Pest Managers Association (AEPMA)

The Pest Detection Dog Working Group wish to thank

**Dr Bidda Jones
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