

The DogChannel Newswire (08-20-08)

Trial starts in Puerto Rico pet massacre; German dogs to sniff out rare species; and other news.

Posted: August 20, 2008, 5 a.m. EDT

Accused Dog Abuser Won't Sign Agreement

The Boulder Creek man accused of neglecting dozens of dogs remained in County Jail Tuesday morning, despite a judge's order that he be released if he follows three rules outlined in court. Brunette doesn't want to comply with the rules, according to the District Attorney's Office, The (San Jose, Calif.) Mercury News reports.

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Study: Pedigree Dogs Plagued by Disease

Pedigree dogs in Britain are suffering from genetic diseases following years of inbreeding, an investigation has found. A BBC documentary says they are suffering acute problems because looks are emphasized over health when breeding dogs for shows. The program shows spaniels with brains too big for their skulls and Boxers suffering from epilepsy, BBC News reports.

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Police Dog Tracks Down Fleeing Suspect

As police officers chased a suspect across streets and backyards Monday night, the man kicked off his sneakers and left them behind — with a .32-caliber revolver and four bags of marijuana inside the shoes. The man was tracked down with the help of a police dog, Boomer, and charged with criminal possession of a weapon, escape, and marijuana possession, Newsday reports.

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Trial Starts for Three Men in Puerto Rico Pet Massacre

Three men accused in the killing of pets seized from a public housing project waived their right to a jury as their trial began Monday, saying heavy publicity would make it impossible to find impartial jurors. Animal control workers in October took about 80 pets from the housing project in the northern Puerto Rican town of Barceloneta and allegedly tossed them off a bridge to their deaths, The Associated Press reports.

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German Dogs to Sniff Out Rare Species

Getting any living thing but yourself past border police at Frankfurt Airport just got tougher. Amy, a German Shepherd Dog, and Uno, a Labrador Retriever, have joined the team at one of Europe's busiest airports — the first two dogs in Germany trained to sniff out live animals, plants, or derivatives or remains of them, The Associated Press reports.

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