



A-ALL PEST TERMITE EXTERMINATORS, INC.
972-241-5223

Attic
Party
Animals?
.com

Sept 2016 Volume 5, Issue 3

The Party Animal News

Visit us on the web at:
atticpartyanimals.com

The Other Side of Pest Control

Like most children of the 60s, I grew up watching boxing with my father. Back in those days nothing was more exciting than witnessing Muhammad Ali step into the ring. Recently on college football game day the hosts were interviewing Ali's daughter as she stood on the field adjacent to an enormous butterfly symbol, an allusion to Ali's famous saying, "Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee." Entomologists love sayings like that.

Reminiscing about old 60s sports icons set me thinking about the other "must see" sports events my family would always stop to watch. For example, who could ever forget the Harlem Globetrotters? My favorite player was Meadowlark Lemmon because, as a comedy routine every game, he would fake a knee injury. The trainers and players would get up and surround him looking to see what was wrong with his injured knee, only for an exasperated Lemmon to shout with impatience, "it's the other knee!" These sorts of "Three Stooges" like gags had young boys like me in stitches at the time, but as I got older and saw how real pain has affected many of the sports icons of the past like Ali, I began to reflect on how important preventing pain is.

Pest control can have its aches and pains for customer and technician alike. There can be many frustrations, injuries, and risks doing this job, and not all the pain is physical. Controlling pest infestations can be difficult, and sometimes you can work all day and feel you've made no progress at all. But, regardless of the difficulty the job of the pest control technician's first duty is to help remove whatever pest problems are causing our customers pain. That's what I feel is most important.

I can still recall a job that deeply impacted me years ago and still gives me pause to this day. I was out on what seemed like a normal wildlife job, but when the homeowner answered the door she looked distraught and upset. I asked if anything was wrong to which she informed me that her husband had shockingly been diagnosed with Alzheimer's at only 56 years of age.

Only a few months prior she had signed papers giving permission for the nursing home facility not to resuscitate him if something happened. His situation had deteriorated so badly so quickly that it seemed he didn't have much longer. While telling me this she was starting to cry. Witnessing this I felt awful for this poor couple. All I could do was try to diminish their pain in the only way I could, dealing with their pest problems. But sometimes helping people even in minor problems can go a long way towards making them feel better.

Pest of the Quarter:

House Cricket

Many years ago our company treated the home of the president of Texas Women's University. The crickets invaded the home and we worked to close holes and treat for the crickets.



Long story short, crickets overwinter in our homes and if a disease is not present in their environment in the summer months their numbers are of plague proportions.

Control: no exterior lights on at night or use yellow bulbs for outside lights, pest control and hole closures.

We VALUE our customers!

I reflected on this memory when last month I got an emergency call about a dead animal on a Saturday. The man said their old cat had died under the bathtub. (How it got in the wall, I do not know.) It was tight and he needed my help. When I got to the home his wife was in her chair and I could tell she was upset. Most of the time we deal with wildlife but in this case it was a pet. We have loved our pets so I knew this was a difficult time for her. I was able to successfully pull the cat and with their approval put it in my truck.

In my head I thought OK, I got this far. I have helped them out like a professional and I can go (it was upsetting for me to pull the cat out). I went back in the home and she now wanted to see her cat. The cat was not in the best condition, but I said it was possible. We went out to the truck and I set it up so she can see the cat's face. Naturally, she started to cry. I told her I was sorry and shared the difficult loss of our old beagle. It became a tough emotional situation.

Sometimes pest control work involves more than just exterminating pests. People skills are important. The lady who signed the papers had something in common with the lady who lost her cat. In a rare occurrence in my job, I felt that a hug was appropriate and my sympathy and condolence was expressed. Sometimes the pest control is the easier part of the job. - David

Bad rat year?

We could be in store for a big rodent season this year if a cool winter occurs. Then large populations of rats could put pressure on our homes. Why? We have had a lot of complaints and sightings of rats outside our accounts this summer. If we see an increase in new rat jobs this fall, I will be right. The accounts where we have outside snap-trap stations seem to indicate that we were able to reduce the outside populations in these areas so we might be able to tell everyone next year that monthly control of rats outside can help over all on problems around your property. I will keep you posted in the future.

A-ALL PEST TERMITE
EXTERMINATORS, INC.
972-241-5223

17819 Davenport Rd Ste 335
Dallas, TX 75252

Phone: 972-241-5223
E-mail: aallpest@yahoo.com
Web: atticpartyanimals.com

Attic Party Animals?sm



David with his State Fair of Texas entries

The State Fair of Texas is Here!!

We have gone to the State Fair of Texas for many years. A few years ago I finally decided to make an entry in one of the collections categories. Believe it or not, I won 2nd place! I was very happy and excited. I took a year off, but this year I have again made an entry and was pleased to find out I placed in the category.

So, if you head out to the State Fair of Texas in the next few weeks, don't forget to go by the Creative Arts building and check out the many displays. And if you look about, you just might see my entry show at the left. We always enjoy browsing what other collectors have entered. There is a lot of talent and creativity in our great state!



After you find us on facebook at www.facebook.com/atticpartyanimals1 give us a "Like" and receive an extra \$20 off one service visit!

Let our operator know when you schedule your appointment.