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Halo and Danny trained to sniff out water leaks

IN A Queensland first, two four-legged furry recruits will be used by Queensland Urban Utilities to sniff out underground water leaks.

Springer spaniels Halo and Danny graduated last week after more than eight months of rigorous training and are now ready to get down to business.

Queensland Urban Utilities spokeswoman Michelle Cull said the duo's super sensitive noses would be an invaluable asset.

The dogs will take part in a number of trials across the Queensland Urban Utilities service region, which covers Brisbane, Ipswich, Scenic Rim, Lockyer Valley and Somerset.

"We have more than 9000km of water pipes in our network and some of these pipes are located in dense bushland, so it can be difficult to detect a leak," she said.

"Halo and Danny are trained to sniff out the chlorine in potable water and are particularly effective in bushland, where it can be difficult for us to

access."

The dogs are an extra measure to track down leaks, alongside technology such as listening devices and sensors.

"It's important we continue to explore new and innovative methods of detecting hidden leaks," Ms Cull said.

"What makes Halo and Danny so impressive is they are able to differentiate between water leaking from a pipe underground and all other types of water on the surface.

"Once the dogs detect a potential leak, we will send our field crews to investigate and repair it."



DOGGED WORK: QUU Spokesperson Michelle Cull and handler Dennis Gannaway with Halo and Danny. PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED