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Alpha Natural Resources Introduces Ginny, the First Coal Mining Search and Rescue Dog

Ginny underscores Alpha Natural Resources' ongoing commitment to safety

BRISTOL, Va., June 1, 2012 /PRNewswire/ -- Alpha Natural Resources (NYSE: ANR), a leading U.S. coal producer, today introduced Ginny, the first canine specifically trained to perform search and rescue in both underground and surface structures typically found at mining operations, as part of the company's signature safety process, *Running Right*.

(Photo: <http://photos.prnewswire.com/prnh/20120601/CG16907>)

Kevin Crutchfield, chairman and CEO of Alpha Natural Resources, said, "We are excited to welcome Ginny to the Alpha Natural Resources family. She is a tremendous new asset for mine search and rescue, both for our company and the industry, and is part of our larger commitment to safety. Ginny also demonstrates our *Running Right* process in action, showing how our company takes employee ideas to enhance safety and makes them a reality."

Ginny, a brindle-colored Dutch Shepherd, is trained to search for missing, trapped, injured or unresponsive humans in unstable conditions or confined areas. She has a highly-developed scent ability and can canvass large areas in short amounts of time. To help protect and support her when working in the field, Ginny also wears a specially designed protective vest that carries sophisticated technology, such as an infrared camera and atmospheric gas detector when underground.

Ginny was bred at a kennel that provides some of the highest-performing dogs in existence to branches of the U.S. military, law enforcement and homeland security. Her formal training took over two years and was led by Bill Dotson, a well-recognized canine behaviorist with expertise in the development of highly specialized skills for search, rescue and recovery. Ginny continues to train with Alpha's mine search and rescue teams so that they know how to best work with her and leverage her skills.

Ginny currently resides with her handler, Rick McAllister, Alpha's Director of Continuous Improvement; Rick was also the employee who came up with the idea that the Company should train a dog specifically for mine search and rescue.

Ginny is making her first official public appearance today at the Governor's Cup Mine Rescue Contest in Cedar Bluff, VA. In the coming week, she will also be attending the 2012 National Search and Rescue conference in Lake Tahoe, NV.

To learn more about Ginny, please visit www.AlphaMineRescueDog.com, like her on [Facebook](#), follow her on [Twitter](#) or watch her on [YouTube](#).

About Alpha Natural Resources

With \$7.1 billion in total revenue in 2011, Alpha Natural Resources ranks as America's second-largest coal producer by revenue and third-largest by production. Alpha is the nation's largest supplier of metallurgical coal used in the steel-making process and is a major supplier of thermal coal to electric utilities and manufacturing industries. In 2011, the company had more than 200 customers on five continents. More information about Alpha can be found on the company's Web site at www.alphanr.com.

Note to local media

Ginny will be at the Governor's Cup Mine Rescue Contest today if you are interested in meeting her in-person; two members of the Alpha Natural Resources search and rescue team who work closely with Ginny will also be present to speak with the press. The event is taking place at the Southwest Virginia Community College Activity Field located at 724 Community College Road, Cedar Bluff, VA 24609.

Directions to the event are at: <http://www.sw.edu/community/directions.htm>.

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