

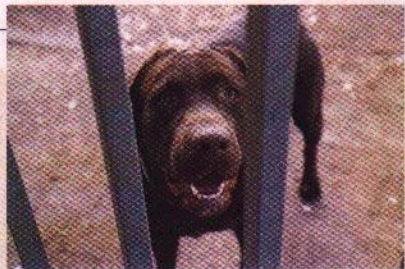
Harnessing the Bark

THE WATCHDOG HAS BEEN around for centuries, prized for its highly sensitive nose and ability to detect suspicious behavior in a wide area, not to mention its sharp teeth. But what if no one notices what the dog is doing or hears his barking? Israel's Bio-Sense has taken the watchdog and added a technological twist to make him, says CEO Eyal Zehavi, "an optimal security system" as well.

Bio-Sense, which is based in the Ma'ayan Technology Incubator in Beersheba, was founded in 2003 by a group of friends, all dog lovers, from the Israeli Air Force and army security units that use dogs to guard the perimeter of bases.

"In 2000 we came across the problem, the operational gap," says Zehavi, "which came up in many escape attempts from prisons or break-in attempts to army bases. The dogs on guard responded very vigorously, but in many cases, their alarm didn't reach the command and control center. Either the guards couldn't hear the dogs, or they were accustomed to the barking and didn't differentiate between ordinary noise and the way they barked when someone broke in or out."

Bio-Sense's Dog Bio Security (DBS) is based on a dog collar with sensors that pick up the dog's bark, its movements and other physiological data. If the sensors note something out of the ordinary,



ESTERAN ALTEBAIN

WATCHDOGS: When are they barking to warn of an intruder?

such as frantic, loud barking, they send the information to the central computer server, which issues an alert to a computer, cell phone, beeper or any other device. The company installed its first pilot installation at the end of 2003 at Eshel Prison in Beersheba, which has almost 3,000 prisoners and whose perimeter is guarded by 25 dogs; so far, in exercises, the system has detected 93 percent of suspicious activity.

Bio-Sense has three systems: for large sites, small-to-medium installations, and homes, where the sensor can be connected directly to an existing alarm system. The cost will range from hundreds to hundreds of thousands of dollars, depending on the site size.

The company, which is yet to register its first sale, has concentrated its marketing efforts on large facilities in Israel, such as power plants, water sites and prisons. It's also demonstrating DBS in the U.S., South Africa, Brazil and Europe, where watchdogs are commonly used.