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Nala gets a rest after sniffing out Tuberculosis samples



Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you well! Things are going great in Tanzania – the New Year has brought with it lots of sunshine and exciting developments. 2013 has just begun and already there is so much good news to report especially from APOPO's Tuberculosis Detection Facility; I just can't wait to tell you about it!

I have been working very hard with my trainer, Fidelis, and I've been flying up and down the line cage each day, sniffing and scratching away as I concentrate my nose on the scent of *mycobacterium tuberculosis*. Now that we have all adjusted to the new process I told you about in my last letters, I have been sniffing out even more samples than before! Removing one step of the TB preparation process seems to have made a lot of difference. The more we pouched rats can do, the closer we can all come to curbing the spread of Tuberculosis.

Meanwhile, APOPO's expansion of our TB Detection program into Mozambique is tackling

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Detection Facility in Mozambique's capital city Maputo is already up and running. I heard the trainers talking and it seems things really started off well. My colleagues processed over 500 samples in the first week- and they are looking forward to increasing their workload. We HeroRATs are always looking for a way to lend a helping paw, especially on the behalf of humans.

And the work of our humans at APOPO has not gone unnoticed. A researcher who has been here since the program first began; Dr. Georgies Mgode received an award from the president of Tanzania for all of his hard work in the field of science. I am so proud to be working side by side of him. Our researchers help to keep APOPO on the cutting edge of science. It's exciting for everyone here – humans and rats alike – when our work and team members are recognized nationwide.

Well I just had a long day of sniffing out that pesky TB and I have a belly full of bananas so I think I will doze off for a bit this afternoon before starting work again in the morning! Thanks again for your support – the whole team could not do this important work without you.

Love and whiskers,

Nala the HeroRAT

P.S. We rats can tweet as well as we squeak! See and share the latest heroic happenings: become a fan on [Facebook](#) or follow our tweets [@HeroRATs](#).

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