

THIS IS TO GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT

Petra Schuster

HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE LIFE-SAVING ACTIONS OF THE HERORATS BY ADOPTING

Nala

THIS ADOPTION SUPPORTS THE WORK OF THE HERORATS, WHO SAVE LIVES AND LIMBS BY USING THEIR EXCEPTIONAL SENSE OF SMELL TO SNIFF OUT UNEXPLODED LANDMINES AND DISEASE.













Aug 14, 2012

Dear Petra Schuster,

Congratulations, you have adopted ME! As your adopted HeroRAT, I wanted to take this opportunity to properly introduce myself to you. My name is Nala and I am an African giant pouched rat.

Don't be fooled, I am not your ordinary rat: we HeroRATs are trained to save lives! How can a rat save lives, you ask? Well, we are specially trained to sniff out tuberculosis (TB) in human sputum samples.

TB is a highly contagious disease that if left untreated, can kill over a million people each year. The rapid spread of TB is a result of low detection rates, and the lack of a reliable method for testing large volumes of patient samples. This is where HeroRATs come in: although sniffing out TB is not an easy task, we have a few tricks up our fur!

The first is our amazing olfactory (smelling) abilities: we can sniff out even the smallest trace of the disease in human sputum samples.

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Name: Nala Job: TB Detection Rat Birthdate: Sep 2, 2011

The second is our speed: when trained, we can evaluate 40 samples in under 7 minutes - that's a full day's work for a lab technician using a microscope!

With all of these exceptional qualifications for this task, you would think we might have very large egos. But we don't: we are simply happy to work for peanuts!

Becoming a fully-accredited HeroRAT involves months of training and tests at APOPO's TB Detection Center in Tanzania. After accreditation, we graduRATs work to increase TB case findings through second-line screening, helping to diagnose patients who have been missed by microscopes.

As your adopted hero, I will be sending you quarterly updates, as well as a photo or two, so you can follow my progress. To stay up-to-date on HeroRAT happenings, make sure you sign up for our e-newsletter at www.tww.twoter.com/heroRAT or www.twitter.com/HeroRATs.

I promise to do my best to make you proud of me. With your support, we are helping to prevent the spread of this terrible disease, one sniff at a time! Together, we are saving lives.

Thank you.

Love & whiskers,

Nala the HeroRAT



HeroRat Nala



Nala

Nala is a TB Detection Rat, who brings boundless energy and enthusiasm to her training as she learns to save lives with a sniff. Her incredible team spirit and gusto will make her a great asset to our TB Detection Program.

Likes: The play cages; competitive RATathons; banana protein shakes

Dislikes: Tuberculosis; making a mistake in her training and missing out on a treat

Nala was born on Sep 2, 2011.