



Dear Braintree Logistics team,

Greetings from Tanzania! How are you all doing? The training field is stunning in the mornings these days, with a few clouds looming above the mountains and a clear blue sky above. It is winter here so the morning temperatures have been cool and pleasant: perfect for HeroRAT training!



Here I am getting ready to indicate a landmine!

When I last wrote to you, I had just triumphantly passed my 'three meter' test and was gearing up to begin the more difficult 'five meter' stage. In case you forgot, this stage is different from the 'three meter' stage because it is two meters longer, there are fewer and deeper mines, and they are spaced further apart to really test my concentration. This was not going to be an easy task!

Well, it took me a little while to adjust to being so far away from my trainer, Miraji... two extra meters makes a big difference! Luckily for me, Miraji was exceptionally patient with me at this stage. He would slowly guide me along my path and allow me to really sniff the area.

As I slowly started to gain more and more confidence in the scent, my indications to Miraji also increased in intensity. Once I was certain that I was standing on a landmine, I would scratch really hard at the ground and wait to hear Miraji's glorious 'click' noise to tell me to come get my delicious banana reward.

After only a month of practicing at this stage, Miraji was so confident in my skills, that he wanted to put them to a test to determine if I was ready to move on to the next stage! Now, I don't want to brag or anything, but...I passed with flying colors! Those tricky mines couldn't hide from me! Miraji was so thrilled with my success, that he gave me and extra helping of the sweetest banana I have ever had.



Miraji and I practicing for my big test at the five meter stage

Now I have just begun the final stage in my training to become a landmine detection HeroRAT, known as 'advanced'. At this stage, I will learn to perfect my strong indications of mines and build up my stamina so I can search for landmines longer.

Passing this stage will not be as easy as the last stage; I will need to pass not one, not two, but THREE blind tests! Can you believe it? I will have to train very hard with Miraji to make him (and you) proud! And then I'll be another step closer to fulfilling my dream of entering the real minefield as an official, accredited HeroRAT. Wish us luck!

Thanks so much for your support in helping me come this far. I'll keep you posted on how things go at the advanced stage. Until then, I send my best wishes from Tanzania!

Love & sniffs,



Sniffles the HeroRAT

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