



Dear friends at Braintree Scientific,

Salutations, or as we say here in Mozambique, *Olá!* (Yes, it's true – in addition to sniffing out landmines and saving lives, we rats are quite s-nifty when it comes to languages! And yet we remain such humble creatures.)



I am continuing to work hard as I acclimate to the differences between Mozambique and Tanzania. The trainers here are all very encouraging, and understand that there are a lot of differences a small-town rat needs to adjust to in the wide-open countryside. By now, my nose has become accustomed to the new smells, and my paws fly over the soil as if I was a bird!

Soon I will be taking my final Accreditation Test, administered by the National Institute of Demining in Mozambique. I've been able to squeeze in more practice sessions, because my test was postponed a little. But even with this extra time, I'd be lying if I said I wasn't nervous – and you know we rats never lie! (Our noses are long enough already). To help me prepare, I am spending a lot of time discussing tactics and stRATegy with some of the experienced veterATs. They say they know I'm prepared for the biggest challenge of my heroic career to date – and I know I am too!

The last few weeks have been very exciting here. In July, we bid farewell to the former Mozambique Program Manager, Andrew. He's moving to Thailand to lead APOPO's Mine Action program there, and we all know he'll do a spectacular job! Before he left, he introduced us to our new fearless leader, Tess. We could tell that Tess was going to fit right in when he hosted a rat-tastic barbecue for the team – he must have known that we rats love to socialize over food! Best of all, we got to know each other and build team spirit. I suggested that next time, we include a few team-building games, like "Hide and Squeak" and my personal favorite, "Guess How Many Peanuts are in the Cheek Pouches?" Tess said he'll think about it.

Well, friends, as I write to you, the sun is about to rise over Mozambique, and it's time for me to begin my early-morning exercises. I'll be thinking of you when I'm out there scratching and sniffing – as you helped me get to where I am today! Thank you for believing in me.

Love and whiskers,



Sniffles 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](#).