



Hello to all the team at Braintree!

Greetings from Tanzania! I hope this update finds you well and happy. My HeroRAT colleagues and our human friends have been really busy since my last update, and I'm excited to report that I've just started to work outside at the training field! We have the second largest training field in the world and the most diverse, so by the time I've completed my training I will have encountered most of the mines that I might come across in a real minefield.

My trainer, Miraji, gave me plenty of practice back at the main office in the three-hole stage, where I sharpened my sniffing skills on positive and negative TNT samples. Now I've learnt that when I find this TNT smell, Miraji will give me a delicious snack of peanuts and bananas! It definitely makes going to work each day a lot of fun...

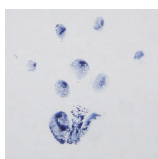
Before graduating to the field, I tested out my new harness on a soil floor and practiced walking back and forwards on a line of string between the trainers. This was great experience, but the field is something else! There are so many different smells and sounds, but now I know exactly what I'm looking for.

First of all, I spent some time at the tea-egg stage getting used to the soil at the field and sniffing around for TNT eggs. I passed this stage with flying colours, and Miraji was so proud he gave me a big banana treat and some good pets! Now I've progressed to three-metre stage. It's the first time I've been given the important task of looking for real landmines (disarmed, of course). Wish me luck! I'll keep you posted when I have my next test and let you know how it goes.



Recently, we've also had some school students come to watch the work we are doing. They all say how much they like the name Sniffles! Thanks for all your support in helping me to do my job. It's very important to Miraji and I, and to all my HeroRAT colleagues! Til next time...

Love & whiskers,



Sniffles the HeroRAT