



Happy Holidays to everyone at Braintree Scientific!

2011 is drawing to a close, and here at APOPO, the HeroRATs are jingling all the way towards a world free of landmines and TB. I know we couldn't have done such good work this year without your help! Let's take a look back, shall we?

I'm proud to announce that the Mozambique Mine Action team cleared more than 710,000 square meters of land in the Gaza Province this year. In the process, over 740 landmines have been found and destroyed! We've been working so fast that we are planning to wrap up demining of the Gaza Province by early 2012 - two full years ahead of schedule!

This was also a heroic year for my colleagues in the Tuberculosis Detection Program. They have brought joy to the world by screening thousands of patients' samples, and diagnosing hundreds of previously missed cases of TB. And, just in time for the holidays, the TB Detection Program received a huge gift: approval from the Flemish Government to start a new program, replicating our TB sniffing successes in Mozambique!

On a different continent, our Thailand Mine Action Program also made huge strides this year. APOPO-PRO's survey of all Suspected Hazardous Areas in the province of Trat hit the ground running in June. This program is currently in the capable hands of my human colleagues, and perhaps in 2012, the capable paws of the HeroRATs may share the task of ridding Southeast Asia of landmines.

As for myself? It's been a year filled with milestones! This was the year I officially graduRATed from the HeroRAT Training course in Tanzania, and found myself flying to the real minefields in Mozambique to being my life's work! Of course, I have you to thank for all of the achievements of 2011, and I hope you're as proud as I am. As I reflect on the past year and all you've done to support me, I'd like to wish you a very happy and safe holiday season - and squeak a hero-sized "thank you" at the top of my little lungs!

See you in 2012,



Sniffles the HeroRAT

P.S. Be sure to check out our "12 Days of HeroRATs for the Holidays" countdown on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) for real ratty festivity!



***I can never stick to my diet
during the holidays...***