

June 2022

Rodent Heros

Rats have been trained to find landmines since the 1990's and the work of the charity APOPO has saved many thousands of lives around the world through it's training programme.

A trained rat can scan a piece of land the size of a tennis court in less than 30 minutes. A human with a metal detector would take 4 days to check the same piece of land.



Rats trained by APOPO have saved thousands of lives by detecting landmines.

Rats are now being trained to find survivors in the aftermath of earthquakes. They have a similar sense of smell to dogs, and are just as easily trained. They have the advantage of being much smaller and can access areas that dogs wouldn't be able to.

The rescue rats will carry backpacks with a microphone so survivors can speak to rescuers, a torch and a camera.

APOPO Rescue Rats Lifesavers

Training Earthquake Rats



Rats are highly intelligent animals which makes them relatively easy to train.

Rats have very sensitive senses of smell and can detect tiny amounts of explosive very accurately.

They have also being trained to sniff out tuberculosis, which is a highly infectious bacterial disease. Tuberculosis is the 13th leading cause of death and in 2020 killed over 1.5 million people worldwide.

Using sniffer rats means the disease is diagnosed much earlier than usual and can be treated much faster.



Rubble from an earthquake can be very unpredictable and dangerous to search.

Webb Watch

Alignment is complete, operating temperature has been reached and check on the four JWST instruments has been carried out successfully.

The JWST is ready to take it's first 'proper' images! The first images are expected at the start of July 2022 and they will be the fist of many amazing discoveries that JWST is going to make.

Alignment Complete

Where is Webb



My Science Club

topicalscienceupdates@gmail.com