

# WHY RATS?



1

## EXCEPTIONAL SENSE OF SMELL

Rats are known to be amongst the most sensitive animals when it comes to smell. They will sense where a mine is buried or if a sample contains disease. Moreover, their sensitivity for a specific scent increases with the amount of training.

2

## INTELLIGENT AND TRAINABLE



The African Giant Pouched Rat is an intelligent animal, relatively calm and easily trainable. Moreover, they have a long lifespan of up to eight years.

3

## TOO LIGHT TO SET OFF MINES



The rats weigh just over a kilogram on average. This is not enough to set off a landmine.

4

## LOCALLY SOURCED AND WIDELY AVAILABLE

The African Giant Pouched Rat is native to most of Sub-Saharan Africa, adapted to the local environment and widely available.

5

## EASILY TRANSFERABLE BETWEEN TRAINERS

Though sociable animals, rats do not bond closely to their trainers. This makes transferring the animals between trainers or sending them abroad for operations less problematic.

6

## LOW MAINTENANCE COST



Rats are cost effective to source, feed, breed and maintain. Their small size also makes them cheap and easy to transport, locally and internationally.

7

## RESISTANT SPECIES

Endemic to Sub-Saharan Africa, the African Pouched rats are well adapted to the environment. APOPO's HeroRATs are in excellent health and live long lives.



**WE TRAIN RATS TO SAVE LIVES**  
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