



Military dogs which used to protect soldiers are now being trained to sniff out prostate cancer in patients' urine samples. The Italian researchers started the study after reading about dogs that were used to smell **melanoma**.

Dogs' noses are very powerful, as they have up to 300 million **sensors** compared to a **measly** six million in humans. One dog was even able to identify the disease in a patient before the medical team.

As impressive as the **canines'** performance is, you will not see dogs **roaming** hospital wards to diagnose patients any time soon. The team in Tuscany wants to develop an electronic tool to replicate the dog's sense of smell.

Difficult words: **melanoma** (a form of skin cancer), **sensor** (a measuring device), **measly** (ridiculously few), **canine** (the scientific word for 'dog'), **roam** (walk around).



Discussion Questions

Topic Talk

1. Define the following words: *melanoma, sensor, measly, canine and roam*
2. What are military dogs being trained now?
3. Why are researchers using dogs to sniff out prostate cancer in patients' urine samples instead of other animals?
4. Will dogs be used personally in hospitals to diagnose patients?
5. How are researchers going to make use of the dog's powerful sense of smell?

Express Your Thoughts

1. Do you have a dog at home? Are you interested in dogs?
2. Had you known how powerful dogs' noses are before you read this article?
3. What other amazing things can dogs do that you can think of?
4. Do you know any other animals that are being used in research these days?