



Help Dogs that Save Elephants

Please help us rally support for Ranger Dogs in Africa that protect elephants from ivory poachers.

You can get involved at **NATURE.ORG/RANGERDOGS** to help cover their necessities, including food, medical care, safety gear and support for human rangers that care for them.



The Nature Conservancy 

Turn **YOUR DOG** into an Honorary Ranger Dog at **NATURE.ORG/RANGERDOGS**



Meet the Ranger Dogs

WARRIOR AND MACHINE

Warrior and Machine are bloodhound brothers who live and work at Loisaba Conservancy, which was founded with TNC. The brothers are four years old, and came from Ol Jogi Conservancy where they were trained from a young age as sniffer dogs. Bloodhounds make great tracker dogs because they have more than 200 million olfactory cells ("scent receptors"), which is about 40 times as many as humans! Warrior and Machine are well trained and well loved by their handlers: Joseph Ekan, Christopher Lengini, and Ryan Nangunye.

FUN FACTS ABOUT WARRIOR

- Considered slower than his brother, but extremely accurate
- Gentle and handles chaos of large groups of people and animals well
- Just had the first of several eye surgeries for a common condition called entropion (don't worry, he is doing well!)

FUN FACTS ABOUT MACHINE

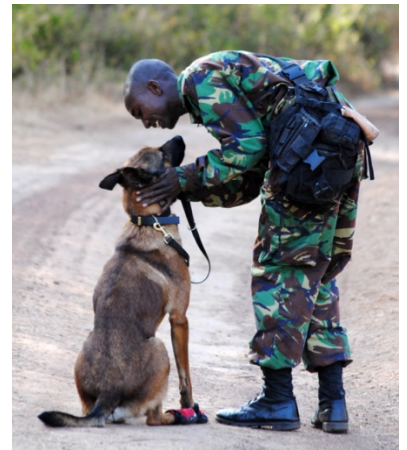
- Very fast, but sometimes can be too quick and miss the trail
- A little bit afraid of animals, but loves people
- Tears up his dog beds — he prefers to sleep on the floor

ZACK

Zack is a 1-year-old Belgian Malinois who just came to work for TNC's close partner, the Northern Rangelands Trust, earlier this year. He is based at the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy headquarters where he gets to live and play with their K-9 unit: Maxo, Jack, Tipper and Tony. Zack was trained at the Malpeet K-9 Academy in Wales.

FUN FACTS ABOUT ZACK

- Wears boots to protect his feet from the thorny acacias
- Belgian Malinois breeds also have sensitive smell, but their greatest strength is their ability to effectively detain criminals on the run.



"Where there are Ranger Dogs, the elephants are safer. Poachers stay away. They know that they can't hide from the dogs."

-- Munira Bashir, Kenya Director
The Nature Conservancy



Learn more and get involved at
NATURE.ORG/RANGERDOGS

About the Ranger Dogs

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why are the dogs needed?

Elephants are in crisis: An estimated 25,000 are killed each year for their tusks to feed a global black market for ivory. Elephants often move many miles per day, and areas that are patrolled by different anti-poaching teams are enormous. With their incredible sniffing abilities, dogs help security teams zero in on poachers—hours or even days after they've left this scene. When poachers know that they are likely to get caught, poaching rates go down.



What do the dogs do?

When called upon, the dogs and their handlers track down suspected poachers and recover the tusks. They also help local police track thieves. This increases respect and buy-in for the dogs and wildlife security units among local communities—people who live among poachers and can help provide information to authorities. Poachers are often involved in other crime, so helping catch petty criminals can also avert future poaching.

Given that dogs are so effective, why aren't there more on patrol in key places?

The challenge, as ever, is getting sufficient resources. The main costs of Ranger Dog units are their human ranger counterparts and the gear they need. Ranger Dogs must have full-time care and specially trained and equipped handlers if they are to be effective at their jobs—and happy and healthy. More organizations are seeking to establish Ranger Dog units, and The Nature Conservancy's generous supporters are helping make that happen.

What is life on the frontlines like for the dogs?

Every morning their dedicated handlers take them on different routes keeping them fit and ensuring they are always ready to go. They live in kennels at a home base where they have room to play and run. They love their Worker Wagg dog food and Sunday morning baths (as much as any dog really loves a bath!) And when it's time to work, they're eager to get at it.

Whether they're driven out into the bush to pick up the scent or they need to jump into a plane and help further flung neighbors, the dogs and their handlers are always prepared. But Warrior and Machine don't attack people. Like sniffer dogs you've seen in airports, their job is simply to use their noses to solve the crime. Zack, the Belgian Malinois, will also be good at cornering suspects if needed.

What kind of support do the dogs need?

Like other dogs, they need food, medical care (Warrior just had eye surgery), deworming medicine, leashes, and safe and comfortable kennels. Unlike other dogs, they each have a highly trained human ranger assigned to them, and those heroes also need uniforms, boots, GPS and radio devices, and vehicles to drive the team to each location.