

# CAN DOGS SNIFF OUT THE CORONAVIRUS?

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By now, everyone knows that the most common way to detect whether someone has the coronavirus is to get a nasal swab; whether that's at the doctor's office or the local health department, it's an unpleasant experience.

So, is it possible for a dog to detect whether someone has COVID 19? Well, the answer to that question is yes. Current research shows that dogs can be trained to detect the virus, and researchers at The Canine Performance Science Center are working not just with COVID 19, but they are also making plans for other viruses that could be a problem in the future. The hope is that these virus-sniffing dogs could be used in hospitals and airports and even at the entrance to a nursing home.

Another group that is interested in potentially using dogs to detect viruses is the Auburn University School of Veterinary Medicine Canine Performance Science Program. Pam Haney from Auburn University stressed the fact that dogs are not being trained on live viruses. They have the ability to replicate a scent, and researchers stress that the dogs are not in any danger during this training. Currently, Auburn's main focus has been on sniffing out explosive devices, but the hope is that these intelligent dogs can be trained on any target, namely a virus.

Although those involved want to make it clear that there is still work to be done before this becomes a common practice, the research looks promising at this point in time.

