When you think of animals that could be considered heroic, giant rats probably aren’t the first creatures that pop into your head. Many people still think of them as filthy, disease-ridden little thieves that deserve eradication rather than a medal. But one nongovernmental organization (NGO) has proven just how heroic rats can be by training them to detect land mines.

Meet the Rats That Sniff Out Land Mines

Tanzania-based NGO APOPO found the answer: African giant pouched rats. These rats have several advantages over dogs and humans when it comes to detecting land mines. While they are bigger than your average pet rat — some can be as large as a cat — they’re still light enough that they won’t detonate a land mine if they stand on one. Though they have poor eyesight, they make up for that deficiency with an incredible sense of smell. A fully trained rat can sniff amounts of TNT as small as 29 grams and distinguish it from other industrial substances like motor oil and battery acid.

Along with these innate qualities, pouched rats are easy and cheap to train. While a dog can only bond with and work for one master, rats will train. Over 60 countries worldwide still feel the effects of wars past every time people knew there had to be a safer way. Between 1995 and 2015, APOPO’s rats found about 13,200 mines in Africa and Southeast Asia. Today, their programs are still going strong, proving heroism can be found in even the most unlikely of animals.
STORING YOUR SUMMER GEAR

PREPARING FOR NEXT YEAR

Although winter seems like a distant prospect, it will be here before you know it. While many people are sad to see their summer clothes and gadgets get stored away until next season, it’s a good idea to start planning now. Taking the time to properly pack away summer gear is beneficial and can save you from unnecessary worry next year.

Why It’s Important to Store Summer Gear

Properly organizing and storing your summer clothes will help them last longer and prevent you from aimlessly rummaging when searching for that perfect fall sweater or blouse. Likewise, when you cover your patio furniture and tuck your bicycle and tools away, they will be cleaned off and given a fresh coat of wax, and outdoor gear will get a different answer on when to file a lawsuit and which case facts support litigation. For purposes of saving clients money, most law firms strive to settle all claims before filing a lawsuit.

When there are fewer expenses on a claim, more of the money goes to the client. However, there are certain times when filing a lawsuit is absolutely necessary to settle a claim. When the time comes that you must file a lawsuit on your claim, unfortunately, the litigation process can be very long and slow. Here are a few reasons why litigation takes a long time.

• Courtrooms are overrun with criminal cases, divorce cases, and amicably before a court.

• Sometimes the plaintiff firm does not push the case along. At a good law firm, attorneys are prompt to request the docket control conference (DCC), which is the conference that sets deadlines and a court date for the case.

When Your Attorney Files a Lawsuit for Your Personal Injury Claim

Typically, your lawyer will attempt to resolve your case without the court to drag on because they are compensated on an hourly basis. The more hours they work, the more money they receive from their boss, the insurance company. If the claim settles quickly, they do not get to bill all those hours (but again, this is speculation).

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• There are many aspects that go into a lawsuit, including depositions, the designation of experts, discovery, research, and so on.

Often, the most vital thing anyone can do with a lawsuit is to manage expectations. Once all of the dates are set through the DCC, there is downtime in regard to client involvement with the litigation process. A lot of the work on a lawsuit is done behind closed doors. The best advice is to be patient, and if you hire a good, reputable law firm, you should be in good hands.

WHat Happens NeXt?

Adapted from a recipe by famed Southern chef Sean Brock, these skewers are seasoned in a Senegalese style and served alongside mustard-flavored onions.

INGREDIENTS

• 2 lbs trimmed leg of lamb, cut into 1-inch cubes
• 1 tbsp peanut oil, plus more for grilling
• Salt and black pepper, to taste
• 1/4 cup distilled white vinegar
• 1/2 cup Dijon mustard
• 1 tbsp agave nectar
• 1/2 onion, thinly sliced
• Salt and white pepper, to taste
• Equipment: Bamboo skewers

DIRECTIONS

1. In a bowl, coat lamb with 1 tbsp oil and generously season with salt and pepper. Let marinate in onions and season with salt and pepper.
2. In a mixing bowl, whisk together mustard, and agave nectar. Toss in onions and season with salt and pepper.
3. Heat a grill or grill pan to medium and oil the grates.
4. Thread lamb on skewers and grill for 6–8 minutes.
5. Serve alongside onions.

SENEGALESE LAMB SKEWERS