

《芬兰机场嗅探犬上岗探测新冠病毒 可在10秒内检出结果》

当地时间9月22日，芬兰赫尔辛基万塔机场16只嗅探犬正式上岗，它们能在10秒内检查出旅客是否感染新冠病毒。专家指出，它们还能够在症状出现前几天识别出病毒，这是连实验室测试都无法做到的。



Sniffer dogs Valo (L) and E.T., being trained to detect the coronavirus from the arriving passengers' samples, are seen in Helsinki Airport in Vantaa, Finland September 22, 2020. Picture taken September 22, 2020. REUTERS/Attila Cser

Sniffer dogs are a familiar sight at airports all over the world, where border agents use them to detect illegal substances and contraband.

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contraband [ˈkɒntrəˈbænd] n. 违禁品

Now some dogs are using their noses for a different purpose - coronavirus.

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Dogs specially trained to detect Covid-19 have this week started sniffing passengers as part of a trial at Finland's Helsinki-Vantaa airport.

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Volunteers are training a team of 15 dogs and 10 instructors for the research programme.

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Sniffer dog Miina, being trained to detect the coronavirus from the arriving passengers' samples, works in Helsinki Airport in Vantaa, Finland September 15, 2020. Picture taken September 15, 2020. REUTERS/Attila Cser

The dogs can detect coronavirus in humans five days before they develop symptoms, Anna Hielm-Bjorkman, the University of Helsinki professor who is running the trial, told Reuters news agency.

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"They are very good [at detecting coronavirus]. We come close to 100% sensitivity," she said.

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Passengers wipe their necks with cloths, which are then placed in a can and put in front of dogs to sniff. A canine test can deliver a result within minutes.

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But while the trial has shown early promise, more research needs to be done to prove the efficiency of canine testing. At the moment, passengers who take part in the trial are also instructed to take a swab to confirm the result.

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Vantaa Deputy Mayor Timo Aronkyto said it was possible that the dogs could in future "go around passengers in a similar way to customs dogs".

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