MEET THE NEWLY TRAINED SUPER SNIFTERS:

Name of the dogs and their location of deployment:
- Rocky (Great Himalayan National Park, Himachal Pradesh);
- Sweety (Kempedgowda International Airport, Bangalore, Karnataka);
- Tina (Satpura Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh);
- Rozer (Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra);
- Goldy (Meghastiger Reserve, Maharashtra);
- Jacky (Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, Tamil Nadu);
- DC (Kawal Tiger Reserve, Telangana);
- Akram (Amrabad Tiger Reserve);
- Rustam (Pithoragarh Forest Division, Uttarakhand);
- Silvi (Buxa Tiger Reserve, West Bengal).

Name of the handlers:
- Nishant Thakur & Shamsheer Singh (Rocky);
- Shivanna T. C. & Subramani T. C. (Sweety);
- Rajnarayan Bhalavi & Anulal Bhushare (Tina);
- Ekrahdh K. Kude & Sandeep B. Kavale (Rozer);
- Amaral M. Kasdekar & Anil Lalkj Dhande (Goldy);
- P. Arun & Rajesh Kumar R. (Jacky);
- Y. Satyanarayana & S. Srinivas (DC);
- D. N. Naresh Kumar & K. Shiva Prasad (Akram);
- Manoj K. Panth & Tej Singh (Rustam);
- Biswajit Rava & Bikram Gosai (Silvi).

Breed: All German Shepherds except Sweety (a Labrador).

Total Number of Super Sniffers: 66

TEN NEWLY TRAINED WILDLIFE SNIFTER DOGS JOINED INDIA’S SUPER SNIFTER FORCE IN 2018:
YAMI GAUTAM APPOINTED AS BRAND AMBASSADOR FOR SUPER SNIFTER PROGRAMME

On 16 December 2018, 10 newly trained wildlife sniffer dog squads completed their nine-month long training and passed out with flying colours from the National Training Centre for Dogs (NTCD), BSF Academy, Tekanpur, Gwalior taking the total strength of Super Sniffers to 66. As a mark of her support, well known Bollywood actress Yami Gautam was present at the graduation ceremony and was announced the Brand Ambassador of TRAFFIC and WWF-India’s wildlife sniffer dog programme (Super Sniffers) in India.

During the graduation ceremony, Yami Gautam not only pledged her support for the Super Sniffer programme but also interacted with the new graduates at NTCD. Voicing her concern on the issue of illegal wildlife trade, Yami said, “illegal wildlife trade is increasing by the day, threatening the existence of our wildlife and the rich biodiversity of India. For me, these heroic dogs are not just ‘man’s best friends’, but also nature’s best friends! I have heard some heartwarming stories of their bravery during the ceremony and I am proud to be able to help and support their cause.”

Dr Saket Badola, IFS, Head, TRAFFIC, India Office added, “The wildlife sniffer dog training programme has been a success in India with 66 dog squads joining enforcement agencies in their fight against wildlife crime. For the first time in India, a wildlife sniffer dog squad will be stationed at the airport in Bangalore as airports are considered to be crucial transit points for wildlife smuggling and illegal wildlife trade. Having a wildlife sniffer dog stationed at the airport may prove to be a game changer.”

Dr G.S Nag, CVO, Officer Commanding, NTCD said, “The support of well-known personalities like Yami Gautam will help bring visibility and acknowledgement to the efforts of wildlife sniffer dogs in the field of wildlife protection in India”.

Illegal wildlife trade is the fourth largest organised criminal activity globally, threatening the survival of many species over the world. Combating this crime is urgent and crucial to the conservation of the natural world. Using sniffer dogs for crime prevention and detection is a long-proven practice that has reaped significant benefits over the years. TRAFFIC with support from WWF-India launched the Super Sniffer programme in the country to help combat illegal wildlife trade in 2008.

Super Sniffers have helped in conducting more than 250 wildlife seizures across India and have been trained to detect frequently traded wildlife products such as tiger bone and skin, leopard bone and skin, elephant tusk, bear bile, caterpillar fungus etc.

Dog Trivia:
A dog’s whiskers help him “see” in the dark. Whiskers pick up on even subtle changes in air currents, providing the dog with information about the size, shape, and speed of things nearby. This allows the dog to better sense approaching dangers or prey — even at night.