Dogs found to be effective for mass screening people for COVID-19
3 June 2022, by Bob Yirka

Once they were tested, the dogs were taken to the Alfort School of Veterinary Medicine where cones had been set up with sweat samples in them.

In all the dogs sniffed sweat samples collected from 355 human volunteers. The researchers found them to be 97% accurate in identifying those people who had already tested positive by a PCR test. And they were 100% accurate in detecting COVID-19 in people who were not experiencing any symptoms. In other tests, the dogs were found to be more accurate in identifying people with COVID-19 than antigen tests, which are the type most commonly used at home.

The researchers note that sweat samples were collected from armpits, from the back of the neck and from used face masks, demonstrating that samples can be collected from multiple body sites. They also note that it is still not known how it is that dogs are able to smell infections in people. And they point out that dogs are much faster at detecting COVID-19 than any of the tests that humans have created, providing results nearly instantly. The only drawback the team could find was the limited availability of trained dogs.


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