

## Dogs help sniff out ovarian cancer in Pa. study

August 9 2013, by Kathy Matheson

---



In this Thursday, Aug. 1, 2013 photo, Jonathan Ball rewards Tsunami with play in the first round of training for a study that will eventually involve detecting cancerous tissue at Penn Vet Working Dog Center in Philadelphia. (AP Photo/Matt Rourke)

Researchers in Philadelphia have begun an ovarian cancer detection study that relies on dogs' keen sense of smell.

Scientists at the Monell Chemical Senses Center want to combine old-

fashioned olfactory work with modern technology to help catch the disease in its earliest stages.

Ovarian cancer affects about 20,000 U.S. women each year. But survival rates are low because it's often not diagnosed until it has spread.

The University of Pennsylvania's Working Dog Center is training three canines using blood and tissue samples donated by [ovarian cancer](#) patients.

If dogs can identify the substance that marks the disease's presence, Monell researchers believe they can create a [sensor device](#) to detect the same chemical.



In this Thursday, Aug. 1, 2013 photo, Jonathan Ball practices with McBaine in the first round of training for a study that will eventually involve detecting cancerous tissue at Penn Vet Working Dog Center in Philadelphia. (AP Photo/Matt Rourke)



George Preti poses for a portrait at the Monell Chemical Senses Center, Thursday, June 20, 2013, in Philadelphia. Researchers in Philadelphia have begun an ovarian cancer detection study that relies on dogs' keen sense of smell. Scientists at the Monell Chemical Senses Center want to combine old-fashioned olfactory work with modern technology to help catch the disease in its earliest stages. (AP Photo/Matt Rourke)

The study is being funded by an \$80,000 grant from the Madison, N.J.-based Kaleidoscope of Hope Foundation.

© 2013 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Citation: Dogs help sniff out ovarian cancer in Pa. study (2013, August 9) retrieved 12 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2013-08-dogs-ovarian-cancer-pa.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.