



Dog detectives? Thanks to superior sniffers, some pups learn to help scientists investigate and track endangered animals. The snoopers' clue? Poop. Dogs that are part of wildlife detective teams are trained to catch the scent of wild animal poop (scat) so that scientists can learn about these animals without luring or trapping them. Like many pooper snoopers, Sampson, the dog in this book, was once a shelter dog, too hyper and ball crazy for families. That energy and ball drive is what makes him such a good dog detective. He is trained on many species, from salamanders to bears, but his goal is always the same. Find the scat and get the ball!

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*A fascinating story that strikes just the right tone of education and fun.*

- Kirkus Reviews



## Learn what it takes to train a Pooper Snooper

Get the fun facts in the “For Creative Minds” section including:

- Critically Endangered Pacific Pocket Mouse
- The Dog’s Nose Knows
- Q&A with Scientist Julianne Ubigau

## Meet the Creators



Award-winning author Jennifer Keats Curtis has penned numerous stories about animals, including *Creek Critters*, *Kali's Story: An Orphaned Polar Bear Rescue* (Children's Choice Book Award Winner), and *After A While Crocodile: Alexa's Diary* (NSTA/CBC Outstanding Science Trade Books for Children), with co-author Dr. Brady Barr of Nat Geo Wild's *Dangerous Encounter*, *Baby Bear's Adoption* with wildlife biologists at Michigan's DNR, *River Rescue* with Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research, Inc.; and *Moonlight Crab Count* with co-author Dr. Neeti Bathala. The long-time writer's other recent books include *The Lizard Lady*, with co-author Dr. Nicole Angeli, *Maggie: Alaska's Last Elephant*, and the *Animal Helpers* series. When not writing, Jennifer can be found among students and teachers, talking about literacy and conservation. Visit her website at [jenniferkeatscurtis.com](http://jenniferkeatscurtis.com).



Julianne Ubigau has been a handler with Conservation Canines since 2006. Between 2008-2019, she and her loyal dog, Sampson, located wildlife scat of species that ranged from the tiny Pacific pocket mice to the giant grizzly bear. More than 20 other targets included Jemez Mountain Salamanders, wolves, cougars, environmental pollutants, and an invasive plant called garlic mustard. Today Julianne continues her research with Jasper, a lab mix rescue. He is trained on wolf, cougar, bobcat, fisher, marten, garlic mustard, and PCB (polychlorinated biphenyls). Julianne is sharing her passion for science—and Jasper's work—in classrooms. She is developing an outreach education program as part of the Center for Conservation Biology.



Since childhood, Phyllis Saroff has brought together her love of science and art. In addition to *Creek Critters*, *Maggie: Alaska's Last Elephant*, *Vivian and the Legend of the Hoodoos*, *Tuktuk: Tundra Tale*, and *Sounds of the Savanna*, for Arbordale, Phyllis has illustrated nonfiction books about the natural world such as *Teeth* and *Mary Anning: Fossil Hunter*. She also illustrates for children's magazines, wayside signs and other educational material. Phyllis works digitally and with oil paint. Phyllis lives in Maryland with her husband, and two dogs. Visit her website at [saroffillustration.com](http://saroffillustration.com).