

White Paper Can we think of a robot dog as a guide for your day or an inspection assistant?

By NewAgeRobots



INTRODUCTION

Robotic dogs are machines designed to mimic the appearance and behavior of our canine companions but with a whole lot of technological prowess. Imagine a dog made of high-tech parts instead of fur! That's a robot dog and they are very popular nowadays. Hence it is important to know about their capabilities and advancements being done to make them so useful.

ROBOT DOG AS A TOUR GUIDE

As a robot technology expert we have unleashed the capabilities of robot dog as excellent tour guide which make them so special



Robot dog deployed for guiding visitors at Vantara Aquaria Jamnagar, Gujarat

Here's robot dog deployed at Vantara Aquaria Jamnagar, Gujarat which has the following capabilities to fulfill the expectations

- 1. To guide the visitors coming to explore the Aquarium Gallery.
- 2. Interact by conversation with visitors using AI based models.
- 3. Can play music and dance to music for the entertainment of visitors.
- 4. Activities like Running, Jumping, Backflip, shaking hands with the visitors, following humans and much more making visitor experience more delightful and memorable.

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ROBOT DOG AS ENTERTAINER



Robot dog at Robotics Gallery, Science city, Ahmedabad

The robot dog you saw in the above image is another robot dog deployed at Robotics Gallery, Science City, Ahmedabad, Gujarat. An advanced robot dog is entertaining the visitors by marching, running, moving its thighs like dancing, jumping and backflip activities. Also it interacts with hand shakes with the visitors which makes the memorable and delightful experience for them encouraging them to visit again.







KEY FEATURES OF THE ROBOT DOG



High-Fidelity Perception:

The robot boasts a proprietary 4D LiDAR sensor offering a near-hemispherical field of view with minimal blind spots. This enables highly accurate environmental mapping and obstacle detection crucial for real-world deployments. Additionally, the integrated Intel RealSense depth camera provides rich sensory data for complex tasks.

Agile Movement and Power:

With a maximum speed of 3.5 meters per second, the robot is among the fastest robot dogs available. Its powerful motors, delivering up to 45 Nm of joint torque, ensure efficient navigation across diverse terrains, making it suitable for demanding environments.





Extended Operational Time:

The robot comes standard with an 8,000mAh battery offering 2 hours of operation. An optional 15,000mAh battery extends runtime to 4 hours, allowing for prolonged deployments without frequent recharging.



AI-Driven Decision Making:

The robot integrates a GPT language model, enabling real-time environmental analysis and informed decision making. This empowers the robot to adapt to dynamic situations and perform tasks autonomously.



EROS

Versatile Control Methods:

The robot offers both remote control and autonomous operation capabilities. Additionally, its ROS compatibility facilitates programming for customized behaviors and specialized applications.

Advanced Functionality Suite:

The robot includes an intelligent side-follow system for effortless control, voice command functionality, and foot force sensors for enhanced stability and maneuverability.





WHY DO ROBOT DOGS ALIGN WITH OUR NEEDS?

Maneuverability:

The robot's agility allows it to navigate uneven terrain or crowded spaces, making it suitable for guiding people in diverse environments like hiking trails, museums, or historical sites.

Real-time obstacle detection:

Equipped with LiDAR and depth sensors, the robot can avoid obstacles and ensure a safe path for your group.

Interactive features:

The robot's voice control capabilities could allow for hands-free interaction with the guide robot.

Entertainment value:

The robot's playful movements and design could add an engaging element to the guided tour.

Simple, pre-programmed tours:

In places with well-defined routes and limited information delivery, the robot could lead visitors independently.

Interactive exhibits:

The robot could be integrated into exhibits at museums or zoos, providing visitors with additional information or acting as a companion on their exploration.

Remote guiding:

A human guide could remotely control the robot, allowing them to navigate challenging environments and deliver information to visitors virtually.



CASE STUDIES



1. Spot robot:

Built by Boston Dynamics, Spot is a four-legged robot designed to be agile and mobile, able to navigate various terrains. Here are some of its key capabilities:

Data collection: Equipped with 360-degree perception sensors, Spot can gather data in environments that might be hazardous or difficult for humans to reach. This data can then be used to create digital twins of real-world spaces or for predictive maintenance purposes.

Safety and inspection: Spot can be outfitted with additional payloads like cameras and thermal scanners, allowing it to inspect industrial facilities and identify potential problems before they occur. Its new safety features include visual and audio signaling to keep workers aware of the robot's location and actions.

2. Unitree A1:

The Unitree A1 is a high-performance quadruped robot, often called a robot dog, known for its athleticism, stability, and affordability.

Here's a breakdown of its capabilities:

Speed and Agility:

The A1 can reach speeds of up to 3.3 meters per second (11.88 kilometers per hour), making it quite fast for a robot. It also boasts exceptional maneuverability and flexibility.





Stable Gaits:

Advanced balancing algorithms allow the A1 to maintain stable gaits even on complex terrain.

Perception and Navigation:

360° Depth Perception: Equipped with a 3D LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) system and a depth camera, the A1 can create a real-time, high-precision map of its surroundings. This enables features like:

Obstacle Avoidance: The robot can autonomously avoid obstacles in its path.

Mapping and Navigation: It can build maps and plan navigation paths.

Vision-based Object Tracking: The A1 can track objects within its visual range in real-time.



3. MIT Cheetah robot:

The MIT Cheetah is a high-performance quadrupedal robot designed by researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). It's known for its impressive speed and agility, inspired by the cheetah, the fastest land animal.

Here are some of the Cheetah's key capabilities:

High-Speed Running: The Cheetah can reach speeds of over 3.9 meters per second (almost 9 mph), making it one of the fastest-legged robots in existence.

Dynamic Maneuvers: They can perform complex maneuvers like jumping, turning at high speeds, and even recovering from being pushed or yanked.

Terrain Adaptability: Through advanced algorithms, the Cheetah can adjust its running style to different terrains, like grass, uneven surfaces, or even treadmills.

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Sensorless Navigation: Some versions of the Cheetah can navigate without relying on cameras or LiDAR sensors, using advanced algorithms for contact detection and control.

Self-Learning (Mini Cheetah): The Mini Cheetah, a smaller version, can learn to run in simulations and adapt its movements to new situations.

These capabilities make the MIT Cheetah a valuable research platform for studying animal locomotion, leading to advancements in robotics for various fields like:

- Prosthetics design
- Search and rescue operations
- Future autonomous transportation

CONCLUSION

Robot dogs have become so powerful that they are evolving as great companions in various fields and we have explored their capabilities as tour guides. That for sure, they can be more helpful to humans in a wide variety of tasks as technology in the robotics system evolves. It may not be surprising if they find a member at home to perform household tasks in a few upcoming years.



