



Job description – Sickbay Staff
Vervet Monkey Foundation, Tzaneen, South Africa

This position will fulfill the needs of the Vervet Monkey Foundation by ensuring the monkeys in an area of the foundation are looked after and the supervision and training of volunteers in those areas.

Reporting directly to – Animal Manager, Josie Humble (co-Director)

Full time voluntary position with occasional on call duties

Length of period: Long term (min of 18 months but preferably as long as possible)

Working hours – anytime between 7am - 5pm (some overnight baby shifts and evening shifts possible in baby season Nov – Feb). There will be some out of hours depending on the monkey's needs and how many volunteers we have here.

Visa requirements – a 1-3 year volunteer visa for international applicants, please check with your local embassy for updated information. You will usually need to apply within your home country before coming out. We can write you a host letter.

Probationary period – All staff members will be taken on for a 3 months trial period initially, after which period of time, a two-way appraisal will be given.

Responsibilities:

- Caring for ill/injured patients housed in sickbay building- refreshing food, water and blankets as needed
- Monitoring the health of sick monkeys and communicating with Josie/Animal Manager regarding any changes to their health or behaviour.
- Ensure that Sickbay cages are kept clean and sanitized throughout the day, this includes the sickbay kitchen and food prep area. Charged with washing all monkey blankets (including for babies).
- Introducing new volunteers and interns to our sickbay area which involves general husbandry and sharing knowledge.
- Preparing special diets for sick monkeys as determined by Josie/Meds Staff
- Cleaning wounds when necessary
- Monitoring monkeys in Global Enclosure and James Enclosure, including providing daily forage, changing water bowls, disinfecting introcages, etc as needed
- Helping to look after orphaned vervet monkeys during baby season (Nov – Feb) as needed
- Checking stock of food, cleaning material and general stock at sickbay
- Cleaning and checking stock of medicines / equipment and general stock at surgery building
- Possibly help and supervise our quarantine area.

- Working with the local staff and volunteers to check all monkeys have food and water, cages are clean and see that all their needs are met
- Observations of behavior of monkeys within your area to collect data for troop integrations etc.
- Enrichment of cages
- De-worming monkeys in your area, possibly administering medications to them
- Training and supervising new volunteers on a daily basis to help look after your area of responsibility. (This includes before having a day off to ensure your area is covered)
- Social media updates at least once a week
- Weekly youtube videos
- Photos updates for records, adoptions and social media
- Sharing your knowledge with other volunteers and being friendly towards them
- Attending volunteer meetings on Wednesday evenings at 7pm and participate where necessary
- Attend staff meetings and participate where necessary.
- Fundraising projects – are an essential ongoing need of the foundation and we expect long term staff to participate regularly to help with funding.
- Take on other responsibilities to help the centre with funding and progression for the monkeys and the volunteers.
- Write articles for newsletter with updates on your areas.

This list is not exhausted and may vary depending on season or changes to the foundation.

Attributes required for the position:

- Patience, reliable, flexible, responsible, punctual and conscientious
- Supervisory skills
- Work on own initiative as well as in a team
- Perform all tasks in the best interest of the foundation, monkeys and the volunteers.
- Strong interest in wildlife conservation
- Able to work in a hot climate at times
- Able to work with people of different personalities and backgrounds
- Able to live and volunteer in the same community of people with changeable dynamics
- Able to work under pressure
- Trust, honesty and respect towards all members of the team
- Patient and friendly towards volunteers
- Fluent English speaking

Qualifications / Experience:

Min 4 A-C grade GCSE's with further education or equivalent
Experience in supervising people (preferred but not essential)
Previous volunteer experience / experience with animals
Suitable animal / primate qualification (preferred)
Experience in a working environment for a min of 2 years

Accommodation provided & living conditions:

Basic accommodation includes - staying in an individual wooden cabin which includes a few items of furniture, 1 small table, 1 pillow, 1 mattress, bedding, wardrobe / drawers, fan, solar powered electricity to charge phones / laptop, lights.
Electricity is also provided at the main cottage to recharge items such as cell phones etc.
Eco-toilets and bush showers with hot and cold water

Main meals are eaten at the cottage & are all vegan, no meat, fish, cheese, dairy or eggs to be brought on to the premises. We ask you to embrace a vegan diet whilst on site.

Cottage area comprises of – kitchen area with fridge, dining tables, wifi, electricity. Patio area and Games room.

A deposit of R5000 is required on acceptance of this position which is returned to you at the end of your agreed length of commitment.

Location – Tzaneen:

Climate is tropical being hot and humid in the rainy season, summer Nov – Feb and dry and cooler in winter May – October.

Tzaneen is not a malaria area but Kruger park and other local attractions are, prophylactics can be used and obtained via the doctor in Tzaneen if necessary

Tzaneen town is 25km from the centre with a shopping mall.

Approx situated 1 hour from Kruger National Park

Working environment:

The foundation is 25 hectares in size with over 650 vervet monkeys.

Working partly outdoors, supervising and introducing volunteers to your area involves walking up a hill. Applicants must be physically fit

Communication via mobile phone (Whatsapp)

Possible admin – using a computer database to update records

Holiday:

You are entitled to one and a half days off per week and 21 days holiday per year to go touring at quiet times and providing we have enough cover. The number of days will increase by one per year until you reach max of 25 days per year.

Public holidays – half day or if needed to work, can take a half day in lieu that same week.

Additional benefits:

Stipend will be provided at the end of 3 months R2000 (South African Rand) for those who commit to a min of 1 year.

10% off in gift shop

Free VMF t-shirt after 3 months

Certificate at end of committed stay

Opportunity to give public guided tours and receive 50% of the entry fee

No petrol fee for weekend outings

Data package on MTN provided

Free laundry access provided

If interested in this position, please contact info@vervet.za.org for more information and to set up a video call interview. To learn more about the work we do, visit www.vervet.za.org