



**Job description – Meds/Special Care
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 – Dave & Josie Du Toit (Co-Director / Founder, Co-Director / Rehabilitator) Megan Stark (Sanctuary Manager)

Full time voluntary position with occasional on call duties

Length of period: Long term (min of 2 years but preferably as long as poss)

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 – at least 2 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 letter.

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

Responsibilities:

- Preparation and handing out of medications /supplements / herbal treatments to monkeys – (this can be an all day job by itself and a lot of patience is required)
- Monitoring the health of sick monkeys (walking around the entire centre, checking on over 500 monkeys and recording if any health problems are seen) and communicating with Josie/Megan any changes in their health.
- Possibly help with some Tuberculosis testing & de-worming injections
- If we have any volunteer vets here at the time then you may be able to assist with vasectomies or surgery (this is usually only once a year)
- Preparing and administering de-worming medication
- Introducing new volunteers to our sickbay area which involves general husbandry and sharing knowledge.
- Looking at faecal samples under a microscope
- Preparing special diets for sick monkeys
- Helping to look after orphaned vervet monkeys during baby season (Nov – Feb) if they come in

- Cleaning up wounds if necessary
- Checking stock of medicines / supplements and general stock at sickbay
- 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)
- Sharing your knowledge with other volunteers and being friendly towards them
- Attending volunteer meetings on Wednesday evenings at 6pm and participate where necessary
- Attend committee 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.
- Attend & participate in regular volunteer and staff meetings

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
- 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 a wooden cabin which includes 1 black box for items, 1 small plastic table, 1 pillow, 1 mattress, 1 sheet, 1 pillowcase.

There is no electricity at the village but a few solar lights

Electricity is 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 or animal products including cheese, milk or eggs may be brought on to the premises.

We ask all voluntary staff to lead a vegan lifestyle whilst working at the VMF.

Cottage area comprises of – kitchen area with fridge, dining tables, internet computer, electricity.

After 1 year a small stipend may be possible if able to a commit to a min of another year after.

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 500 vervet monkeys.

Working partly outdoors, supervising and introducing volunteers to your area involves walking up a slight hill

Carry a radio to communicate with others on site

Possible admin – using a computer database to update records

Holiday:

You are entitled to one and a half days off per week and 15 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 20 days per year. Holiday request must go to Dave, Josie & the Volunteer Manager in advance and cannot roll over to the next year without special permission from Josie or Dave. Please note although you have days off, you still need to check the monkeys in your section as you will be responsible for their care.

Public holidays – you will normally be asked to work a minimum of half a day or more on public holidays unless there is sufficient cover.

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