



WILDLIFE PAWS SOS

Join us in our conservation efforts
to protect South Africa's wildlife



Welcome to Wildlife Paws SOS volunteering program.
We are a unique and ethical volunteering program which is aimed at
conservation, animal rehabilitation, communities' education and skills
development.
If you love animals and have a passion for nature, then Wildlife Paws SOS
is the place for you.



EDUCATIONAL & REHABILITATION FACILITY

Wildlife Paws SOS started from humble beginnings. Our journey began in 2018 in South Africa, where a French woman fell in love with the country's breathtaking landscapes and incredible biodiversity. In a world where protecting the environment is more crucial than ever, she decided to act. Alongside two inspiring South African women she met during several conservation missions, and with the unwavering support of our families, Wildlife Paws SOS was born, and created an alliance with another rehab, Dullstroom Bird Of Prey. We are all about saving, rehabilitating and releasing animals back to the wild. Our unique location means that we receive all types of patients from tiny leopard tortoises and meerkats to servals, birds of prey, primates, especially vervet monkeys and larger mammals. We "do it all". As a volunteer on our program, we get you involved in all aspects of animal care. **WHAT DO WE DO FOR NATURE?** We are fortunate to have our own specialized wildlife clinic as well as several species-specific enclosures and rehabilitation areas. Today, Wildlife Paws SOS plays a prominent role in Wildlife Rehabilitation in the Mpumalanga province. The wildlife rehabilitation work that is conducted at Wildlife Paws is primarily funded out of visitors to the Awareness Centre where Wildlife Paws offers various programs to the public to see non-releasable indigenous animals of Southern Africa and other local wildlife often caught up in human-wildlife conflicts. Our wildlife hospital admits approximately 150 animals per year. These animals arrive through the Nature Authorities managing the area, the general public and the community at large. No wild animal is turned away and no money is ever asked from anyone who brings an injured animal for help. All cases are overseen by a specialist wildlife veterinarian. The staff are trained to work with these wild animals affording them the maximum chance of full recovery and return to the wild. The wildlife rehabilitation plan for each animal is finalized utilizing protocols. Potential release sites are identified and agreed in conjunction with Nature Conservation Authorities. The rehabilitation activities are subject to strict Permits and we abide by conditions of permits whereby animals under rehabilitation are not exhibited to the general public. As a volunteer you will be able to help where possible in the rehabilitation process. The animals that guests see during guided tours, are animals that are non-releasable and act as inspiration for their species in the wild and to contribute to education. Wildlife Paws SOS is a registered non-profit organization and all income derived is utilized to ensure the on-going sustainability of the facility.



COME AS A FRIEND

Wildlife Paws SOS is unique in what it can offer. We have an animal awareness centre that houses a variety of animals from Meerkats and Owls to Serval Cats, antelopes, primates and much more. These animals have come to us for various reasons, and the aim of the awareness centre is to educate and inspire change in people's hearts through informative tours and close experiences with the animals (no touching or cuddling). Money raised through the awareness centre goes towards the sustainability of the rehabilitation project. This ensures that each animal receives the help it needs to be released back into the wild. We work closely with all the major Nature Authorities, so all the work we do is legitimate, ethical and legal. You will not be contributing to a system that exploits or uses animals for financial gain.

LEARN ABOUT WILDLIFE AND NATURE

We are environmentally conscious. Our aim is to minimize the impact we have on nature. We encourage you to use less, recycle more, and help us reduce the impact we have on our surroundings. Almost every animal we rescue, rehabilitate or release is a victim of mankind's interference. We aim to offset this by giving our animal patients a second chance. There is a wide network of support from the local area and we receive calls on an almost daily basis about animals that need our help.

LEAVE AS FAMILY

By the time you have experienced Wildlife Paws SOS and what we do, you will see nature and conservation in a new light. We aim to inspire positive change in thinking and behavior to help the environment and the animals we live with. You will learn a lot, get dirty, and build strong bonds with people and animals.



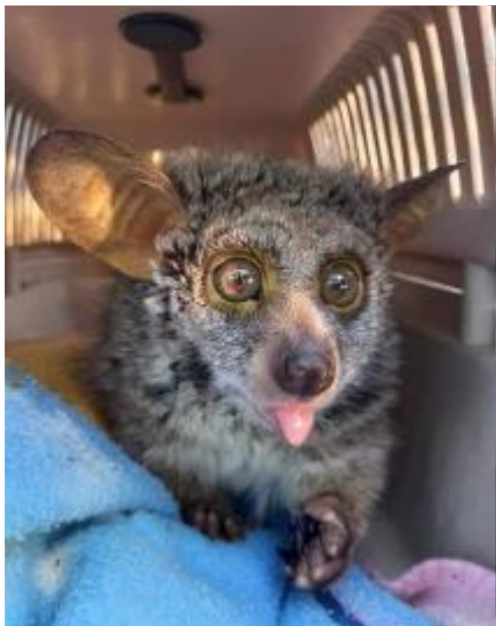


REHABILITATION CENTRE

It is hard to give exact species as we just take it as it comes. Animals come and go. Our rehabilitation centre takes in all kinds of animals. At the time of writing this we have primates, servals, bats, birds of prey, meerkats, antelopes, that are all here getting medication and/or care and will soon be released. Almost every day something arrives that needs help. You never know what might come through the gate.

EDUCATIONAL CENTRE

We have some residents in the awareness centre like warthog, vervet monkeys, birds of prey, antelopes, servals, to name a few. They are life-long residents that need feeding, cleaning and care daily.



WHAT YOU WILL DO

We work with some of the most unpredictable factors around : animals, nature, weather and people. In fact, the best saying around here is “the most predictable thing about our work is its unpredictability”. Because of this, it is very difficult to get an exact outline of a day in the life of a volunteer. But basically, everything you will do will be for the animals. It will vary from feeding prep, cleaning, bush clearing, taking care of animals in rehab, making enrichments, painting a house, working at the veggie garden but there is no “basic” day as we put the animals and their needs first.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A VOLUNTEER

As a “Guideline” we can say a day might look something like this... 07:00 Start our day. We meet up at the Rehabilitation facilities for our daily briefing and go through what needs to be done for the day. 07:15 – 09:00 Start with animal feeding and enclosure cleaning in the morning. This means you will be assisting the staff to feed various animals between the awareness centre and the rehabilitation facility. 09:00 Breakfast time 09:30 General duties – usually any issues noticed in the morning that need attention. 12:30 – 14:00 Lunch break 14:00 – 15:30 General duties: Any tasks that need addressing. These could be things like fixing a small hole in an enclosure fence, removing a tree that’s fallen over, painting an enclosure, working on enrichment, helping on our long-term projects and general stuff that happens around the farm, there is always something to do! There may be animals that need medication or new animals brought in through the day that need housing or attention. 15:30 to 16:30 Afternoon feed and care for the special needs animals or babies during the evening and at night if needed. Remember that things change and we are here for the animals but at the same time for you. We want you to be comfortable and to enjoy the experience, make some memories, good friends and lasting ethical practices for the future. So be ready to get sweaty, dirty, muddy and wet!



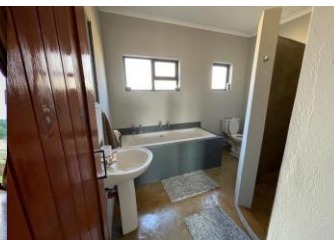
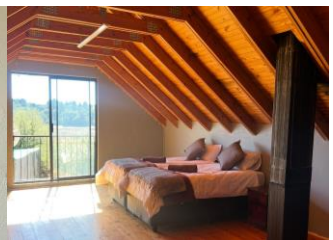
LOVELY AND COMFY ROOMS WITH A VIEW

We know the value of a good nights sleep. Our rooms are spacious, well equipped and comfortable.

The accommodation is located on top of a mountain and next to a big dam. You can enjoy your morning coffee with all the sights and sounds of nature. Our rooms are also located close to the communal areas and communal kitchen, which you will share with the other volunteers.

We limit the maximum number of people to 3 per room. There are options for a room to yourself at an additional weekly cost (if it is available).

There is WIFI in the main house and a nice braai and bar spot outside to have an evening fire overlooking the mountains and the stars.





IN MY SUITCASE I PUT....

Due to the unpredictability of the weather in Dullstroom it is advisable to pack the following items to keep you comfortable during your stay, remember this is just a guideline. If you know that you get cold easily, bring more warm clothing. If you are susceptible to sunburn, bring more sunscreen and a hat.

- Warm clothing, long sleeves, thermal pants, and a hot water bottle for winter.
- Swimming costumes
- A thick Weatherproof Jacket
- A hat for the sun, nothing too fancy / a beanie for the cold.
- Old clothing. This will get dirty. Any clothing that you don't need after your stay, you can donate to the local village.
- Cameras and chargers. Mobile charger, international adaptors.
- GOOD SHOES. A pair of good boots and old trainers will do the job (+ open shoes for relaxing)
- Sunglasses and Sunscreen SPF 50 +
- Your own water bottle, you might need it on a hot day
- Torch and headlamp
- Eco-friendly tick and mosquito repellent
- A small first aid kit (plasters, medications, balms, eye drops, sprays, etc.)
- Any chronic medication you require for the duration of your stay
- A Diary / Journal, books, e-reader, etc.
- Spending money

IF I FORGET SOMETHING OR IF I TRAVEL LIGHT

Town is close enough to get any emergency items you may have forgotten. Also If you want to bring something for the animals ask us for our wish-list and see if there is anything you can bring along.



CONTRIBUTING TO THE PROJECT

As part of your contribution, the money that you pay is used to cover the costs of your living expenses: accommodation, electricity, water, food, maintenance and upkeep of the facility. A straight donation is also taken from the payment and goes directly into the animal fund, for food and vet bills mainly. This money means that we can continue to improve the enclosures, hospital equipment and rehab facilities.

OUR FUNDS

We are raising money through different funds. We have a general one on our website, on the main page under a “donate” button. It offers two different ways of paying : bank card and Paypal. This fund is used for everything that may need money injection at the farm : enclosures, animal food, enrichments, maintenance, tools, medication for the animals, milk during baby season, etc...

We also have special funds going on various platform such as GoFundMe or Leetchi to raise money for special projects : enclosure building, wildcamps, tree planting, etc...

If you are interested into giving money to Wildlife Paws or if your family or friends are, you can ask us for all the details or have a look on our website.



SAME - SAME BUT DIFFERENT

You have no doubt heard the saying, “T.I.A” – This is Africa. It is a unique and interesting place and probably very different to what you may have experienced before. South Africa is a land of contrast and beauty with 11 national languages and countryside that varies between the harsh dry landscapes of the Karoo to the grassland and plains, fynbos, mountains, flatland, forest and a place where two oceans meet. The people and cultures are as rich and exciting as the country itself. Remember that the South African culture will be different from yours : things will taste differently, the weather will be different and so are the languages and the animals.

BE CAREFUL

Follow basic safety protocols as you would do at home. Don’t accept help from strangers, be careful at ATM’s, try not to drive around after dark and avoid areas that are generally off the beaten track. Also, remember to avoid wearing “showy” jewelry and never travel at night. People are generally friendly but remember there are dangers associate with travel just like in any other country. We will give you a full breakdown of staying safe while you are out and about in our welcome briefing on arrival. Try travel light as possible and never leave your passports, wallets and expensive belongings unattended.



HANGING AROUND AT THE FARM

Our property is 100ha, which will give you a lot of space to explore. Like we told you on the “accommodation” page, the big dam is just next to the house. There are amazing spots to chill there and some nice places to walk around. You can relax in the quiet environment of the farm, walk around and enjoy a peaceful time surrounded by a large variety of birds, frogs, and beautiful living creatures. Our place is wonderful and is just waiting for you to come !

AN AMAZING AREA TO DISCOVER

As a foreign volunteer in South Africa, you'll find plenty of adventure right on our doorstep. In Kruger National Park, experience thrilling game drives and spot the Big Five in their natural habitat, a once-in-a-lifetime wildlife encounter. Just a short drive away, the Blyde River Canyon offers breathtaking views, hiking trails, and scenic spots like God's Window and Bourke's Luck Potholes, perfect for outdoor lovers. Crossing into Eswatini (Swaziland), you can immerse yourself in a rich cultural heritage, visit vibrant local markets, and explore rolling mountains and traditional villages, making your volunteer journey both meaningful and unforgettable. Remember to try bring some currency in South African Rand (you can also organize at the ATM) as it helps when you leave tips on activities or go shopping for the small things in town. We will help you with prices and bookings for nearby activities.



Visa: For most countries, there is no visa required if you stay less than 90 days in South Africa. A Tourist visa will be issued free upon arrival but passport and return date/flight will be required. Please ask the South African Embassy in your country to make sure about the regulations for your country or have a look on the South African Embassy website : <http://www.saembassy.org> Please note that foreigners who wish to visit South Africa must have passports valid for thirty (30) more days after the intended return date from South Africa.

Insurance: We highly recommend you apply for a health insurance before your departure. Just ask your normal insurance about it. The repatriation option is compulsory.

Flight tickets: The cost of the volunteering project does not take into account your flight tickets and transfers tickets. To reach Dullstroom, a stopover via Johannesburg will probably be essential. JNB airport transfer to Dullstroom are done via bus and we can come and collect you. We will help you book your bus ticket to Millies which is the closest stop to us.

Electricity: Don't forget to bring an adaptor plug and if you have an external battery, bring it with, in case of load shedding.

Water: The water is drinkable from all taps in the rooms.

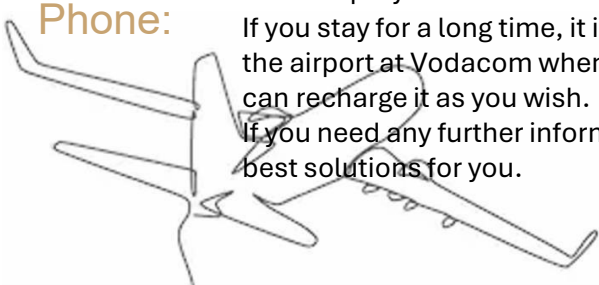
Internet: There is WiFi in the main house and by the communal areas. The WiFi is there for reasonable use so bear in mind you can't stream movies and series all day.

Vaccines: **There are no compulsory vaccines for South Africa.** However, we recommend you to be up to date with your basic vaccines such as Diphtheria, Typhus, Typhoid, Hepatitis A, Tetanus and Anti-polio.

Ask your doctor for advice on the rabies vaccine and anti-malaria treatments if you're planning on travelling through other regions (note that our region is malaria-free). In all cases, it is essential to think of protection such as mosquito nets or spray.

Phone: If you stay for a long time, it is very easy to get a SA prepaid SIM card in town or at the airport at Vodacom when you arrive. The card costs less than 1 dollar and you can recharge it as you wish.

If you need any further information, please let us know. We will help you to find the best solutions for you.





AND THAT'S IT !

Now, if you're interested in joining Wildlife Paws SOS,
Get in touch!

We look forward to welcoming you here as a member of our Team !

