



VETERINARY & CONSERVATION EXPERIENCES

Wildlife Veterinary Course, Limpopo, South Africa



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Wildlife Veterinary Course offers a **two-to-four-week program** designed for **vets, students, and nurses** where you are exposed to the reality of the **life of a wildlife veterinarian** in South Africa.

You will accompany a veterinarian on his/her workday, get exposed to the capture and care of a **variety of different wildlife species**, and obtain **hands-on experience** and a diverse **understanding of wildlife veterinary medicine** and its challenges.



OUR AIM

- Offer a **high-quality** experience where **veterinarians, nurses, and students** can gain knowledge and guided practical experience in wildlife veterinary medicine.
- Be exposed to the **reality and difficulties** of wildlife medicine in Africa.
- Concepts that **can only be learned by working with wild animals** in their natural environment and among locals.



SOUTH AFRICA

Our Wildlife experience takes place in **Limpopo**, we are an **ambulatory clinic** that provides services for nature/game reserves throughout South Africa. We also have a **small animal/wildlife clinic** in our facilities.



VETS, STUDENTS AND NURSES

Designed by **wildlife veterinarians** for vets, students & nurses. The course is given in **English**, but we also speak French, Spanish, Portuguese and Afrikaans.



WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Be part of the **protection and conservation** of wildlife.



HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE

Beyond volunteering **hands-on vet training** and wildlife conservation work.

SPECIES

Impala, Wildebeest, Kudu, Eland, Sable, Roan, Buffalo, Lion, Elephant, Cheetah, Leopard, Giraffe, Rhino.... But also, production and small animals.



PROGRAM CONTENT

Due to the **unpredictable nature of the wildlife work**, during your time with us, you can be exposed to any of the following:

Practical Hands-On Wildlife Medicine

- Chemical immobilization - darting, monitoring, transporting (Ground/Air-Helicopter)
- Hands-on mass game capture
- Translocation and reintroduction – Legal veterinary protocols
- Treatment and rehabilitation of injured and sick animals
- Disease testing and quarantine
- Pregnancy diagnosis and ultrasound
- Stool sampling and fecal egg counts
- External parasite identification
- Necropsy

Herd Health & Breeding Programs

- Habitat evaluation and rehabilitation
- General herd health assessment
- Breeding programs management

- Parasite control - dipping, deworming and monitoring
- Micro-chipping, ear-tagging, foot trimming, and horn measuring



Interactive Lectures

- Safety and emergency procedures
- Wildlife Industry
- Mass capture techniques.
- Principles of chemical immobilization
- Wildlife pharmacology / anesthesiology
- Species-specific pharmacology
- Darting equipment
- Dart gun handling and target practice
- Wildlife diseases
- Capture related problems

Anti-Poaching Initiatives

- Human-Wildlife conflict
- Poaching and illegal hunting methods - snares, foot traps, and hunting dogs
- Collaring and tracking methods
- Rhino Dehorning
- The illegal wildlife trade

Community Outreach Projects

- Educating the young about wildlife and its importance

The life of a wildlife veterinarian has **no set hours**, so students need to be ready for very early mornings that finish early afternoon or that continue until late evening, call-outs at night, and from time to time work during the weekends.



Extra-mural studies (EMS)

If you would like to use the program towards your EMS/Rotation we are available to facilitate the documentation. Forms can be submitted to the veterinarians for filling in at the end of the project.





LEADING VETERINARIANS

Dr. Andrew Fraser
Wildlife Veterinarian.



Dr. Fraser is considered one of the best wildlife veterinarians in South Africa. He has more than 10 years of experience working with wildlife. His exceptional ongoing work with endangered species including White and Black Rhinoceros, African Wild dogs, African Elephants, Cheetah, and Leopard makes him a great mentor to learn from. Dr. Fraser has worked across the conservation industry in South Africa but also internationally. Recently assisted with the quarantine and reintroduction of cheetah into Kuno National Park in India. His career path and dedication to animals, knowledge of nature, strong ethics, and passion for conservation make him a great role model.

Dr. Maria Caiado
Wildlife Veterinarian.



Dr. Caiado is a young Portuguese Veterinarian that graduated from Lisbon in 2022. Dr. Caiado spent a few years gaining experience with wildlife in South Africa and joined the team in 2024, she is passionate about Veterinary wildlife medicine and her enthusiasm for teaching will add tremendously to your learning environment. Dr. Caiado is an example for many veterinary students wishing to follow a career working with African wildlife.

And more...

Note that during your project you may work with more than one vet or different vets.



ITINERARY

Arrival/Departure

Students should book their flights so that they arrive on a **Sunday morning** at OR Tambo International Airport and fly out **late Saturday evening**. A shuttle will be waiting for you at arrivals and drive you to the Game reserve (two-hour drive). On the final day, a shuttle to the airport will also be provided.



ACCOMMODATION

You will be hosted in a safe and comfortable accommodation surrounded by wildlife. Should the vet have to travel you may sleep in other lodges or tents... however, hot showers and toilets should always be available.

The student house has a big garden with fruit trees and an outside fireplace, a comfortable and cozy living room, a fully equipped kitchen, 3 rooms with two individual beds each and plenty of closet space, 3 bathrooms with 2 showers, a lecture room, a lab and, a small library with veterinary books and books about wildlife.



MEALS

The accommodation will be furnished with food based on the student's **dietary requirements**, and food will be replaced according to necessity. Students will prepare meals for themselves.



EXTRA ACTIVITIES

During days off (weekends and public holidays) students can:

On the reserve:

- Game drive
- Walking safari
- Picnic
- Star gaze
- Watch the sunrise and sundown
- Swim and fish at the dams
- Braai (South African Barbecue)

Excursions:

- Marakele National Park
- Adventures with Elephants
- Rhino Orphanage Bela Bela

And More....



REQUIREMENTS

Be healthy

- A good physical/mental condition is very important for this type of field work. It will be necessary to make physical efforts and adapt to extreme temperatures.

Medium English level

- The program will be given in English. In the field, you will hear English and Afrikaans. A low level of English will compromise communication and your learning experience.

Open minded

- Be a person with an open mind, desire to learn and enjoy the African experience.

Aims to learn

- Keep in mind that we are not here to compete with each other, but to learn from one another.



COURSE FEE

Applications

- 2 Weeks - \$3,240 USD
- 3 Weeks - \$4,560 USD
- 4 Weeks - \$5,640 USD
- Confirmation of your booking requires a **non-refundable** deposit of **17%**.
 - 2 Weeks - \$540 USD
 - 3 Weeks - \$760 USD
 - 4 Weeks - \$940 USD

Prices for 2027 on request

WHAT IS INCLUDED

Accommodation, Food, Shirt and Cap, Teaching materials, Transfer to and from the Game reserve.

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED

Flights to Johannesburg, Medical Insurance, Luxury items (chocolate, soft drink, chips, cigarettes, alcohol, etc), Trips on days off (excursions are not guaranteed, are subject to availability of transport and project time restraints).



CONTACTS

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