



Chance Of a Lifetime Travel

**COLT** are proud partners of African Impact, on-the-ground leaders in African volunteering and winners of the 2011 Imvelo Award for Responsible Tourism

# Veterinary Assist and Abused Animal Shelter Project Cape Town, South Africa



*At African Impact, we see ourselves as the on-the-ground AFRICAN SPECIALISTS in volunteering. Founded in 2004, we have so far hosted over 6000 volunteers on our exciting Conservation and Community Volunteer Projects in Africa.*

*We are also immensely proud to have been nominated as Finalists for the following Responsible Tourism Awards in 2009: The **World Travel Awards**; The **British Youth Travel Awards** and the prestigious South African **Imvelo Responsible Tourism Awards**. In 2010 we were once again nominated for a World Travel Award and were proud **Winners of an Africa-wide Imvelo Responsible Tourism Award**. An accolade awarded in 2009 to Sir Richard Branson's Ulusaba Eco-Lodge in South Africa. In 2011 so far we are nominated for a World Travel Award and are entrants once again in the Imvelo Awards, British Youth Travel Awards and Virgin Responsible Tourism Award.*

*Our head office is in Cape Town, South Africa, with supporting operations offices in Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Zambia. We are determined to make a difference in the amazing communities and conservation areas in which we work.  
And so can you...*



**Location:** Cape Town Southern Peninsula, in view of Cape Point Nature Reserve, on the coastline of Cape Town.

**Age limit:** Minimum 17 years, maximum decided on potential participants' health

**Required experience:** No specific prior experience is required for this project.

Project Highlights:

- Gain valuable experience in veterinary care and animal welfare
- Work with up to 300 animals in need each day
- Teach the local community how to care for animals and help to create awareness in local townships
- Rehabilitate animals to enable them to be adopted into a loving home
- Take trips on the mobile clinic and help identified animals in poor communities
- Observe minor animal operations
- Work alongside a resident veterinarian

- Be the backbone of relationships with community members and make an impact on the southern peninsula of South Africa
- Take advantage of optional trips to see more of Cape Town's spectacular sites including world famous Table Mountain and Robben Island
- Make friends for life with the other international volunteers on the programme and immerse yourself in Capetonian culture

### **Veterinary Assist and Abused Animal Shelter Programme**

The animal rescue shelter was established in 1999 and is a pro-life, non-profit organization whose core aim is to rescue, rehabilitate, re-unite and re-home lost abandoned and abused neglected dogs and cats. Responding to calls for help from the general public, rescuing lost and stray animals in our community and beyond and acting as an unofficial pound by caring for the animals until they are claimed or re-homed is all in a day's work!

The shelter has both a busy on-site clinic which serves animals of surrounding disadvantaged townships as well as a mobile clinic which travels into the surrounding township areas daily to provide assistance to animals in need. The shelter is pro-life and animals are only euthanased on the advice of a veterinarian, when they are incurably ill with absolutely no hope of recovery.



If you are interested, studying veterinary care or have any veterinary experience you will have the opportunity to assist in both the on-site and mobile clinics. From sterilisations to accident victims, you will have the opportunity to work closely with the shelter staff and the vets are highly qualified and will be happy to share their wealth of knowledge with you! They are also keen to get you as involved as possible,

and will enjoy teaching you all that they can to equip you to contribute to the health and well-being of animals.

As a volunteer you can get involved in many different activities though! Become involved with the feeding; grooming, walking and socializing of the dogs - animals thrive in a pair of loving, caring hands! You may also have the chance to bottle-feeding kittens or puppies that are very small as well as tasks such as feeding, grooming and walking the dogs, help rescue animals in distress or the rehabilitation and socializing of dogs and cats.

The shelter cares for, at any given time, upward of 300 animals (approximately 150 dogs and puppies and +150 cats and kittens), providing them with food, shelter and positive interaction with people.

The love and attention that you give these animals not only improves their quality of life but enables them to be adopted into a loving home. An average of 100 animals are admitted to the shelter every month and to date the shelter has homed over 10 000 companion animals.

Accompany shelter staff on our Mobile Van which provides primary health care to animals in the nearby disadvantaged communities that we serve - Masiphumelele, Ocean View, Mountain View and Red Hill. The mobile clinic also gives vital animal care education to the community and works with the children, many of whom have had extremely difficult lives, aiming to break the cycle of abuse by teaching them to care and be responsible for animals.

In addition the shelter has a Feral Cat Programme which traps feral cats at business premises, restaurants, schools, clubs, complexes etc., sterilizing them and releasing them back into their habitats.

While our prime focus is the rescue of domestic animals, the shelter is also called upon to rescue other creatures such as otters, porcupines, buck, genets, snakes, sea birds, owls and various other terrestrial birds.

*The core aims of the shelter are to lessen the suffering of abandoned, injured and abused dogs and cats by rescuing them, providing for their well being and placing them into loving homes; reduce the numbers of unwanted animals by providing free sterilisations in disadvantaged communities and provide humane education to the people to create an awareness of the moral and ethical treatment of the animals whose world we share.*

The shelter strives to meet the needs of the underprivileged communities it serves by:

- Providing primary health care such as vaccinations, deworming and parasite control
- Offering free sterilisations for their companion animals



- Providing a scheduled, daily Mobile Clinic offering basic health care (vaccinating, deworming, parasite control) and food to the animals six days a week
- Establishing an essential working relationship with the residents to protect the rights of the animals and empowering and supporting them through effective education, guidance and follow up
- Providing a registered clinic on our premises offering veterinary care for pets for any condition, illness or injury

From small beginnings the desperate need of the animals in the surrounding disadvantaged communities resulted in the shelter growing at rate never imagined and through perseverance and donations it was a very proud moment when the shelter's on-site clinic doors opened in July 2005, complete with own veterinarian, to meet the growing needs of the surrounding communities and shelter animals.

Today, the shelter has the only established animal clinic for disadvantaged communities in the area, providing not just primary health care and sterilisations, but also treating animals for any condition, illness or injury, such as biliary, gastrointestinal disorders, eye and ear problems, orthopaedic procedures, bite wounds, burns, suturing of wounds following stabbings, mange, musculo-skeletal problems and many other conditions.

Through donations the shelter has also been able to purchase essential equipment for the clinic and even have an x-ray machine which has been an invaluable item in view of the many motor vehicle accident victims treated. Every animal treated in the clinic is sterilised before being returned to its owner.

The shelter's long term vision was always to own their own property, to secure its future and establish a facility that we would be proud of and in August 2006 this became a reality when a 3,1 hectare piece of land in the perfect location was found and secured through fundraising. The shelter now faces the daunting but challenging and exciting task of raising funds to build a new eco-friendly, "green" self-sustaining Pro-Life shelter!

The love and attention that volunteers give the animals at the shelter really does improve their quality of life and future prospects of adoption and integration into a loving home. It has been said "the best shelter is a caring community!" With your help and the help of enough volunteers, we can make that statement come true! Rest assured your work will be necessary, rewarding and exciting!



#### **A day in the life of a Cape Town volunteer...**

*Please note that your itineraries may differ from this, depending on your own experience and the number of other volunteers on the placement at the same time, school holidays etc. and this is simply to give an example.*

**07:00** Get up, eat breakfast of cereals, toast, tea/coffee, and start getting ready for your project.

**07:45** Head off on the short drive to your project.

**08:00** Start work with at TEARS. You will spend the rest of your day out in the community assisting or in the shelter.

**12:30** You will be collected and have lunch back at the volunteer house.

**14:00** Return to the shelter and spend the afternoon assisting in the on-site clinic or

bottle-feeding any baby animals and preparing food for the animal's dinner.

**16.30** End of the working day. You will be picked up from your project and taken to the volunteer house where we evaluate the day and discuss the schedule for the next day, or enjoy some free time.

**18.30** Dinner at your volunteer house. After dinner, volunteers are free to do as they please i.e. movies, malls etc.

### **Project Support:**

Throughout your placement you will have the support and guidance of our experienced project managers. They are part of our greater African Impact support team, which will provide you with competent 24-hour field support and assistance.

### **Project Accommodation and meals:**

- Volunteers will stay in a fully furnished house situated at the foot of Chapman's Peak in the rustic town of Noordhoek.
- The house is on a private and secure property. It's comfortable, spacious, and within easy walking distance of a shopping mall. It is also staffed with a cook and cleaner and each room has an en-suite bathroom. Other facilities include satellite television and a lock-up safe for your valuables.
- All bedding is provided, but you will however need to bring your own towels please.
- You will be provided with three meals a day.
- Breakfast is on a help-yourself basis consisting of cereals / porridge, toast, tea and coffee.
- Lunch and dinner will be cooked or prepared for you by one of our chefs at your volunteer house.
- On weekends you will need to cook your own meals (we will provide ingredients) as our staff will need to be given time off. Weekends are usually a good time for tourist activities and exploring the surrounding area, so this is the time that a lot of volunteers are out and about.



**Getting there:** You will fly into Cape Town International airport and we will collect you and transport you back to our volunteer house.

**Project Cost Includes:**

- Project Fee: this entails financing that goes directly back into the project that you are involved with. This fee facilitates funding for items such as medical supplies, building materials, equipment, etc. Project fees are also used to buy vehicles / equipment for the project, and for developing new housing for volunteers to provide for the expansion of the project
- All airport transfers from Cape Town International Airport upon arrival and departure
- Comprehensive orientation program
- All daily transfers to and from your projects during your stay
- Full board and lodging which includes 3 meals a day at our volunteer house
- Weekly laundry service during your stay
- Assistance in your projects by various African Impact staff and Project Managers
- Outings to Cape Point– the most South-Western tip of Africa, Boulders Beach – to see the African Penguin colony, and world famous Table Mountain

**Project Cost Excludes:**

- Personal travel insurance for the duration of your placement, which must include cover for repatriation
- All transport by air or bus to Cape Town
- All items of a personal nature, such as curios, gifts, clothing (work and other)
- E-mail / Internet and telephone calls
- Soft drinks, wines and spirits
- All visas for border crossings
- Any excursions over-and-above your planned itinerary in Cape Town

**Project Orientation:**

Upon arrival at our project base on the outskirts of Cape Town, all volunteers are involved in a comprehensive orientation programme, which is included in your fee. This is facilitated by your Project Manager and entails:

- An introduction to the city of Cape Town and surrounding Cape Peninsula, as well as the communities you will be working in.
- An introduction to all of our Cape Town projects. Not only will you see where you will be working, you will also see where your fellow volunteers will be spending their days.



*We look forward to welcoming you for a unique, rewarding and unforgettable experience!*

#### **Project Travel Highlights:**

##### **Guideline prices for popular activities offered in and around Cape Town:**

**Aquila private game reserve** – a "Big 5" reserve situated 2 hours drive out of Cape Town: +-ZAR1500 pp (based on a minimum of 5 pax), which includes a buffet breakfast, lunch and a 3 hour game drive. It is also a possible opportunity to pet cheetahs.

**City hop on-hop off double-decker bus:** +- ZAR130pp

**Shark Cage Diving:** +- ZAR1500pp (including transport and based on a minimum of 4 pax)

**Sky diving:** +- ZAR2000 (including transport and based on a minimum of 2 pax)

**Abseiling down Table Mountain:** +-ZAR595

**Surfing lessons:** +-ZAR250



#### **Our Partners**

**[The Happy Africa Foundation www.happyafricafoundation.org](http://www.happyafricafoundation.org)**

African Impact is proud to have been instrumental in the establishment of The Happy Africa Foundation in 2007 and continues to be one of the Foundations major supporters. UK Registered Charity Number: 1123529.

The mission of The Happy Africa Foundation is to empower the African people through the support of community and conservation based initiatives that operate at grass roots level.

We are proudly affiliated to the UK-based **Know Before You Go** campaign that promotes education and knowledge-sharing amongst travellers.

African Impact is delighted to have been nominated as a **2009 World Travel Awards Finalist** and see this as exciting recognition of our position as African specialists in Volunteering, with over 5 years experience in sharing Africa with travellers who have a passion for making a difference.