



Travellers Worldwide is a leading International Provider of  
Volunteering Programmes, Work Experience Internships  
and Cultural Courses Abroad

# SOUTH AFRICA



## VETERINARY MEDICINE INTERNSHIP IN KNYSNA

Gain excellent work experience in a delightful veterinary clinic in Knysna. This Animal Welfare clinic is the only animal rescue centre in Knysna ... and they are inundated with work!

You'll assist with field work, which can include anything from rescuing abused or abandoned animals, to flea dipping. You'll also assist with the rehoming process, i.e. helping with the many dogs and cats, who, after a quarantine period, de-worming, dipping, feeding, and health checks, will (hopefully) be up for adoption.

***Thank you for your interest in this Project. Below is a description of what you can do and expect. You can volunteer whether you're taking a gap year, on a career break, retired, or on a holiday with a purpose. No matter what your age or experience, we look forward to welcoming you to the team!***

## WHAT DO YOU GET?

### SELF-DEVELOPMENT:

- New skills, more confidence, a greater understanding of a different culture, invaluable personal and professional development.
- The enormous satisfaction of helping the local community and their animals and knowing that you made a difference to them.
- An entry on your CV or résumé that will put you head and shoulders above most others in the job market.

### SAFETY AND SECURITY

- Your safety is our top priority. We risk-assess all destination countries, projects, accommodation and more to ensure that they are stable and safe.
- We have experienced local staff with 24/7 back-up and support who are there to assist you and look after you, starting with an in-depth induction on your arrival.

### AN ADVENTURE!

- An exciting, never-to-be-forgotten adventure into Africa and the many diverse cultures in South Africa! And best of all ... **an unforgettable experience!**

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## SUMMARY

**Prices:** From **£1,895** excluding flights.

Please see Full [Price List Online](#).

**Duration:** From 4 weeks to 6 months or longer, subject to visa requirements

**Start Dates:** All year round - you choose your start and finish dates.

**Requirements:** You should either be studying veterinary science or be going into veterinary science/nursing studies or be in the animal technician field. The degree of your level of experience will affect your degree of involvement in the clinic. Minimum age 18.

### What's Included:

- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| ▶ Arranging your Programme,          | ▶ Full pre-departure support and assistance, |
| ▶ Payment Protection insurance       | ▶ Accommodation                              |
| ▶ Certificate of Completion          | ▶ Food                                       |
| ▶ Transfer to your accommodation     | ▶ Transport to and from your project         |
| ▶ Meeting you at the nearest airport | ▶ In-country team support and backup         |
| ▶ 24-hr emergency support.           |  |

**What Not Included:** Flights, Insurance, Cost of Visas (if a visa is required), Return transfer to airport.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

This Clinic is the only animal rescue centre in Knysna and they are inundated with work. Interns can assist with field work, which can include anything from rescues to flea dipping. At the centre, there are also many dogs and cats which, after a quarantine period, de-worming, dipping, feeding, and health checks, will (hopefully) be up for adoption and rehomed.

Knysna has a huge problem with neglected and abused animals in the townships that also need to be sterilised. The clinic has a qualified veterinarian so any volunteer that is either a qualified vet or studying to be a vet would be a HUGE help. Interns will have the opportunity to have a wide range of experiences on this project, all depending on their level of experience. Interns will:

- Assist in the veterinary clinic stitching sutures, cleaning wounds, assisting with animal sterilisation and other surgeries
- Assist with flea dipping and de-worming when the clinic is quiet
- Assist in health checks on animals



If you are nearing the end of your Veterinary Science degree or you are qualified, we can write to the South African Veterinary Council (SAVC) to get consent for you to do operations on your own.

You'll assist in the several clinics that are run on a daily basis, where dipping, de-worming, vaccinations and general duties relating to the well being of animals are addressed. At these clinics, the needy public is also provided with healthy food packages for their dogs and cats.

The clinics are operated from the back of vans, and although rudimentary in terms of "mobile hospitals", the job nonetheless is professionally executed, regardless of limitations.

For a good description of the day to day work on this Internship, please read [Daniela Frei's Review and Case Study](#)

The project is also constantly fundraising from tin collections to large events, such as dog walks and charity events. Any volunteer who has **marketing or fundraising skills** would be a great help in this area. Help in the office with emails, mail merging etc. is also be greatly appreciated. Therefore, interns will be able to go out in the morning and assist with the field workers and then, once back at the Centre, assist with the dogs and cats AND put in a bit of help in the office.

## ABOUT THE CLINIC:

The animal welfare clinic is a privately funded, non-profit organization, solely working for the benefit of animals found mostly in townships and underprivileged areas. Acting and speaking for those who have no voice, the society engages in rescue, rehabilitation and re-homing where possible.

They also provide education programmes and daily clinics, as well as operating a weekly sterilization programme.

Besides responding to distressed call-outs from the public, the society is often also driven to engage in the welfare of larger animals, that although not falling within their jurisdiction, cannot likewise be ignored.

The Clinic has worked hard to expand and is now able to house 300 to 350 animals in a year. They have managed to sterilize 2,800 animals over 2 years. With the help of interns and volunteers, they hope to increase these numbers in order to decrease the number of homeless strays and increase the quality of life of other animals, thus really benefiting the communities around Knysna.

**If you're qualified and have experience**, the Animal Welfare Centre would be especially delighted to have you as they have a massive shortage of qualified vets and assistants, so your assistance would be very valuable indeed! But, as they often stress, any help at all is always appreciated!

***“The area is beautiful and travelling is easy. The house we stay in is lovely and the Travellers workers are such kind, loving people which really makes it feel like a home away from home. What with all the other volunteers and the Travellers staff, it really does feel like our own little family ... well, our own very big family, I suppose!!”*** Luke Brennan

***“Knysna was quite different then I expected. It has this beautiful green forest, mountains and the weather is not just sunny... Now I'm leaving Knysna to go traveling all over the southern part of Africa. It's sad because you have met a lot of people and seen a lot of places. But you can always come back :-)”*** Daniela Frei



## ACCOMMODATION

### ACCOMMODATION: THE VOLUNTEER HOUSE:

The volunteer house in Knysna is within walking distance of the town, yet set against a natural green belt. The bird life is prolific and often the local Vervet monkey troop comes to visit to entertain the volunteers with their antics. The sunset views from the top balcony of the volunteer house of the Knysna lagoon are beautiful and great way to relax after a day working at your placement or to catch up on your tan in the summer. See photo on right-hand side.

The house is large and spacious and also has a self-contained flat downstairs for couples and families. The bedding in the two same sex dorms and the towels in their ensuite bathrooms are changed regularly every Friday by our much loved cleaner, pretty, and there is plenty of cupboard space to store your clothing.



Facilities include a kitchen kitted out for cooking, dining area, a few bathrooms, TV, DVD player, free Wi-Fi, garden and several wooden verandahs.

There is an outside courtyard and garden in the secure grounds where you can have a typical South African barbeque known there as a 'braai'. Make sure you try the local spicy sausage known as 'boerewors' and the Karoo lamb chops are to die for on a 'braai', but if fish is more to your taste then a fish 'braai' with South African 'snoek' is a must.

## FOOD:

You'll be given a food budget which will cover your basic essentials (but not extras like alcohol, snacks and eating out). The kitchen has all the cooking amenities that you might need to take advantage of preparing meals with some of the great seafood, meat, fresh fruit and vegetables South Africa has to offer. There are supermarkets and local shops where you'll do your food shopping.

There are plenty of excellent restaurants within walking distance that offer the most incredible local and international cuisine which our volunteers rave about. Knysna is also famous for its oysters and even has an annual Oyster Festival where everyone eats and drinks far too much! The waterfront and marine is beautiful and full of restaurants and cafes with cuisine that ranges from breakfast, coffees, cakes and snacks, through to sumptuous meals and various different nationality menus.

## WHY TRAVELLERS WORLDWIDE?

- Over 20 years' experience of sending thousands of participants overseas, plus the largest variety of flexible projects that are value for money!
- Accredited projects helps appeal to future employers
- Excellent support! And 24/7 emergency helpline for you and your family
- Your own dedicated Project Co-ordinator to answer all questions before, during and after your trip of a lifetime!
- Detailed information on your project and country and suggestions, safety guide, tips and checklists, via our EXTRANET, available from anywhere, 24/7.
- Free pick up from the nearest airport.

## HOW YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

By joining a Travellers Program you enable us to keep donating money to worthwhile projects around the world; from clothing and feeding school children, building playgrounds or funding vital conservation research - your participation makes these donations possible.

Donations to **Bridge The Gap Foundation**. This Foundation was set up by us to donate directly to particularly worthwhile and necessary projects for children and animals around the world, and partners with other NGO's to raise match-funding for worthy projects.

The price of this project is a reflection of the following costs:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| ✓ Accommodation and Food                   | ✓ UK administration   |
| ✓ Full pre-departure support               | ✓ Marketing (brochures, website design and maintenance, attending careers fairs, advertising, website listings and presentations) |
| ✓ Meeting you at the airport               | ✓ Project Research/Site Inspection  |
| ✓ Transport to the placement site          | ✓ Staff Training/Equipment  |
| ✓ Local in-country team support and backup | ✓ Donations to worthwhile project   |
| ✓ 24hr emergency helpline                  |   |
| ✓ Free T-Shirt                             |   |

***“Travellers is an amazing organization that offers life changing experiences to people of all ages, I will highly recommend it to everyone, and I will be planning another volunteer experience for myself as well as for my sons.***

***Thank you so much for the experience of a life time!”***

**Deanne Peterson**

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Got any questions? Please email us: [info@travellersworldwide.com](mailto:info@travellersworldwide.com)

Once you have applied for a placement, we'll contact you and send you our Welcome Pack. You'll also receive Log-on details and password for our Volunteer Extranet where you'll have access to all the documentation and information which we've put together to facilitate preparations for your adventure! Your Project Co-ordinator for your country will liaise with you throughout the arrangements process, as well as while you're on your placement and on your return home.

The documents you'll have access to also include a Country Fact file, Safety Guide and any manuals that may assist you on your particular programme (for example, Teaching Guide, Sports Manuals, Enrichment Suggestions for Animal Care, etc.). We do all we can to make your stay one that you'll never forget. As with all our destinations, the culture and heritage is different to what you're used to ... which, although one of the most exciting aspects of travelling, should be borne in mind. Self-reliance and independence are highly appreciated in all our destinations and will help you to make the most of this wonderful opportunity! This is a truly awesome, elegant and beautiful country.

### On Arrival, your Introduction to the Country:

When you arrive you will be welcomed by a member of our South African staff who will take you to your accommodation and introduce you to everyone. During your first few days you'll be given an induction so that you can learn about the country and its culture, as well as other useful information, like how to use the transport system, banks, safety issues, tipping, and lots more.

### EXTRA ACTIVITIES YOU MAY BE ABLE TO INCORPORATE INTO YOUR PROJECT

You may also have the opportunity to provide help and support to the local community through the various afternoon activities we have to offer. This is an excellent way to immerse yourself in the African culture, but most importantly to give a caring hand to the local community. The activities could range from helping out at;

- **The Children's Home:** Make the afternoons fun and exciting for these lovely children by playing games, helping them with homework and just being there to give them the attention that they so appreciate.
- **After-school drama or sports** - Take some time out after school to set up after school sports or drama clubs, the children love it and it's a great way to get to know them better in a relaxed and fun environment. If you'd like to set up a drama or sports club, please let us know when you apply so that we can arrange it with the school before you arrive.)
- **Other community projects** - Past volunteers have helped to paint the outside of a crèche that was in desperate need of a lift. The crèche is now looking very cheerful with brightly coloured walls. A jungle gym was donated to this orphanage and volunteers also helped to put it together for the crèche too! There may be other similar projects available at the time you're there that you might want to participate in.

## THINGS TO DO IN SOUTH AFRICA

### LOCATION, EXPLORING AND SIGHTSEEING:

The best advice you'll get from us is to try to see some of the country while you're in South Africa. It's big (huge!) and each different region is exciting and very, very beautiful. **Cape Town** is probably the most beautiful city in the world (I can say that, I grew up there :-). **KwaZulu-Natal** comes a very close second, albeit very different.

**Knysna** is where South Africans go on holiday, which gives you some idea of how lovely the region is. When you lie on the beach and watch dolphins jumping the waves, you'll think you're in Paradise.

### LOCATION:



**Knysna** is approximately 500km from the beautiful capital city of Cape Town and voted South Africa's favorite town 4 years in a row! Its mountainous backdrop, impressively sized estuary and indigenous forests really give the town a natural feel to it. Although it still has that 'small-town' feel, Knysna is growing rapidly, and has all the amenities you could ask for such as banks, hotels, internet café's, cinemas and shopping malls.

About 20-30 minutes' drive away from Knysna you'll find **Plettenberg Bay** (better known simply as Plett), which is a bit smaller than Knysna, but equally stunning. Its' pure white beaches stretch as far as the eye can see and there is a lot to do, from whale and dolphin watching, to hiking trails and awesome nightlife.

The Garden Route is famous for all sorts of activities from adrenalin sports such as bungee jumping, skydiving and shark cage diving to more relaxed pursuits such as hiking, quad biking in the forest or visiting one of the many animal sanctuaries in the area. Your local Travellers liaison will be happy to assist you in finding interesting things to do and places to see so make the most of it!

**Knysna** nestles on the banks of a beautiful lagoon in the heart of the 'Garden Route' of South Africa. It is surrounded by a natural paradise of lush indigenous forests, tranquil lakes and golden beaches, making it a real natural wonderland. Knysna is a vibrant town, buzzing with creativity and energy, and the pulse of good music. It's a place where you can enjoy the mellow atmosphere of street cafes, watching the world go by. The main street is very leafy with trees along the pavements and it has a wonderful holiday atmosphere with sun umbrellas everywhere.

Most cafes have outdoors seating areas overlooking the street or on the pavements, with colourful sun umbrellas - a perfect place to sit with the sun on your face, watching passers-by ambling along, sipping a steamy cappuccino or staving off the heat with a cold drink.

## HOW TO BOOK

### TWO EASY WAYS ...

Complete a [booking form](#) online.

Telephone  
01903 502595 (UK)  
or  
1-603-574-4935 (USA)



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN OUR PROGRAMME!**

**We hope you'll join us!**

**Don't hesitate to contact us with any questions.**

**We're happy to help you plan your exciting adventure!**

[www.travellersworldwide.com](http://www.travellersworldwide.com)

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