



Wildlife Paws Volunteer Guide

Dullstroom, South Africa

Welcome to Wildlife Paws

Thank you for joining us in our mission to protect and rehabilitate South Africa's wildlife. As a volunteer, you play a vital role in giving injured, orphaned, or displaced animals a second chance at life. This guide outlines our mission, your responsibilities, and the rules that ensure the safety of both you and the animals in our care.

OUR MISSION

Rescue

We take in injured, orphaned, and displaced wildlife with the aim of rehabilitation and release back into protected areas of the wild.

We also provide a safe home for unwanted ex pets, giving them the most natural living conditions possible.

Rehabilitation

Every species requires a unique approach to rehabilitation. You will assist with various processes, including troop bonding for social animals and re-wilding for solitary animals, always following our guidance and protocols.

Release

Our ultimate goal is to release animals back into their natural habitats whenever possible. This involves selecting suitable release sites, ensuring animals are physically and behaviorally ready for survival, and securing necessary permits.

Education

We believe education is key to protecting wildlife. Through your experience here, you'll learn about conservation and help us spread awareness within local communities and beyond.

Volunteer Responsibilities

As a volunteer, your tasks may include:

- Preparing and providing species-appropriate food

- Cleaning enclosures and maintaining hygiene standards
- Assisting with enrichment activities for animals
- Monitoring animal behavior and reporting observations
- Supporting staff during medical check-ups or treatments (under supervision)
- Helping with educational activities or outreach programs
- Participating in general maintenance and daily operations

Rules & Regulations for Animal Welfare

To ensure the well-being of animals and increase their chances of successful release, strict adherence to these rules is essential:

1. Minimal Human Interaction

- Do not treat wild animals as pets.
- Avoid unnecessary talking, touching, or prolonged eye contact with animals.
- Never enter an enclosure without permission.

2. No Photography for Social Media

- Pictures of animals are strictly prohibited unless approved by staff.
- Never share images or locations online to prevent attracting poachers or creating stress for the animals.

3. Follow Feeding Protocols

- Only feed animals as instructed by staff.
- Do not give extra food, treats, or human food.

4. Respect Animal Behavior

- Never attempt to play with, cuddle, or hold animals unless specifically trained and authorized.
- Report any unusual behavior or health concerns immediately to staff.

5. Safety First

- Wear protective gear when required.
- Always wash hands before and after handling equipment or being near animals.

6. Quiet Environment

- Keep noise to a minimum around enclosures to reduce stress.
- No loud music, shouting, or sudden movements.

7. Follow Staff Instructions

- For your safety and the animals' welfare, always comply with staff directions.
- Do not attempt to intervene in an emergency without guidance.

Living & Working at the Centre

- Accommodation: Basic shared facilities; respect communal spaces.
- Meals: 3 meals provided per day.
- Working Hours: Expect early starts, physical tasks, and flexibility.
- Days Off: Scheduled by staff—use this time to rest or explore the local area responsibly.

What to Bring

- Comfortable outdoor clothing and sturdy shoes
- Hat, sunscreen, insect repellent

- Personal toiletries and reusable water bottle
- Positive attitude and willingness to learn

Your Impact

Every task you complete—big or small—contributes to the survival of South Africa's wildlife. By respecting these rules and working as part of the Wildlife Paws team, you help ensure animals return to the wild strong and healthy.

Contact Information

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