## Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Location</strong></th>
<th>Fish Hoek, Cape Town, South Africa.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Duration</strong></td>
<td>From 2 weeks.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Dates</strong></td>
<td>All year round.</td>
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</table>
| **Requirements** | • Minimum age: 18.  
|               | • You must have an Upper Intermediate level of English.  
|               | • Special skills: You should have a love for animals. |

### Your impact

The impact of your volunteer work depends on the nature of the project. In addition, it may also depend on whether the project offers a full volunteering experience or a combination of volunteering and tourism. For details, please see the description of the project and what’s included in the project fees.

### Documents required

- Enrolment form, curriculum vitae, letter of motivation, passport copy, proof of medical insurance.

### Day of arrival

Saturday.

### Day of departure

Saturday.
Highlights

• Walk the dogs on some of the most pristine beaches in Cape Town.
• Assist the mobile clinic, which goes into townships to teach people about pet care. If you have animal medical experience, you will be able to assist medically.
• Care for dogs and cats, providing them with love and attention.
• Get personal support from the volunteer coordinator.
• Experience amazing tours and adventures in and around Cape Town.
• Make new friends from all over the world.

Project information

The animal shelter is a non-profit organisation whose core aim is to rescue, rehabilitate, re-unite and re-home lost, abandoned, abused, and neglected animals and to educate communities, in particular children. They strive to uplift the lives of companion animals in disadvantaged communities by providing free sterilisations to qualified families, primary health care, veterinary treatment and food as well as humane education to pet owners.

The shelter aims 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 sterilization for dogs and cats in disadvantaged communities.
• Provide education to create an awareness of the moral and ethical responsibility we have towards the animals whose world we share.

The shelter strives to meet the needs of dogs and cats in underprivileged communities by providing primary health care such as vaccinations, deworming and parasite control:

• Offering free sterilizations to qualifying households.
• Providing a scheduled, daily mobile clinic offering basic health care to the animals.
• Establishing an essential working relationship with surrounding disadvantaged communities, helping them to protect the rights of the animals through effective education, guidance, follow-up and empowerment.
• Treating animals from disadvantaged communities at the shelter veterinary clinic.

Programme details
The core aim of this animal shelter is to rescue and rehabilitate abandoned, abused and neglected dogs and cats and to re-unite them with their owners or find a new home for them.

Your role
A possible work schedule could be:

• 08:00 – 10:00 Help with feeding, medicating, watering and cleaning. (Morning feeding is at 08:00 for the adult dogs and 08:30 for the puppies.)
• 10:00 – 12:00 Go for a walk with the dogs (Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday). Take dogs to hydrotherapy, if needed. Whenever volunteers are between jobs, all staff are encouraged to spend time with the dogs and puppies – they need human contact and love desperately, and always enjoy some human interaction.
• On a Friday and Saturday you are welcome to help with adult dog outings to the beach and to the sports field in the area, where the animals get a much needed leg stretch and some fresh air.
• 12:00 Feeding time for the puppies.
• 13:00 – 15:30 Continue with going for a walk with the dogs, socializing them with other dogs, introducing social groups, playing with them in the green area, grooming the dogs, washing the toys.
• 15:30 Supper feeding for all the adult dogs in the centre.
• 16:00 Check that all animals have blankets and that kennels are clean and dry, and that they have water for the night. Check the kennels are locked properly.
• 16:30 Departure from the project once all is done.

Every Friday morning you will help with the de-worming and weighing of puppies.

It is important to note that this description serves as an example only. The daily tasks and challenges depend on the volunteer, the time of the year and the work that needs to be done. The final job description can therefore vary substantially from the above.

Arrival
You will need to arrive at Cape Town International Airport. Our driver will meet you at the airport and take you to your accommodation.

Day of arrival is Saturday, but it is possible to arrive earlier at an extra charge.

Accommodation
You will be staying at a backpackers’ in Muizenberg. The backpackers’ is located in the heart of Muizenberg and only a few steps away from the beach. It is equipped with dorm-style rooms, a communal
kitchen, a lounge and dining area, shared bathrooms, outside & inside chill areas and free WiFi. Bedding is provided, towels are not provided. Laundry can be done at commercial laundry facilities nearby.

You will be able to relax in the afternoons overlooking the ocean, and head to the beach on the weekends for a surf at the world famous Muizenberg Beach across the road.

**Meals**

Breakfast and dinner is included from Monday to Friday.

Saturdays and Sundays are self-catering as well as at your own expense. There are great restaurants and bars all within walking distance.

**Free time**

Muizenberg is melting pot for travellers from around the world as well as one of the top 20 best surf towns in the world. The backpackers’ is situated in the heart of Muizenberg, nestled between the mountains and the sea. There are nice places to go for drinks, watch live music, sing karaoke, watch movies, etc. You can also visit a penguin colony at boulders beach, book a full-day tour to the Cape of Good Hope, hike up Table Mountain or explore Cape Town (can be reached by MetroRail within about 40 minutes).

**How to get to the project**

The MetroRail station in Muizenberg is only a short walk from the backpackers. From there you travel 3 stations to Fish Hoek and change to a bus that takes you directly to the project. The total travel time is approximately 40 minutes. A weekly ticket for MetroRail and bus costs about €11 / US$ 12.

**What to bring**

There are no special requirements in this regard but we recommend bringing comfortable, practical clothes as well as a small, easy-to-carry bag so that you can keep important belongings with you. Anything else you might need is readily available at local supermarkets in South Africa.

While there is no specific uniform, volunteers are asked to wear sensible clothing, e.g. long shorts and closed shoes. Hot pants, string bikinis and flip-flops are not suitable for work.

**Medical insurance**

It is required that you take out medical insurance before travelling to South Africa. For stays exceeding 90 days, it is compulsory to take out a South African medical insurance. We recommend NetworX from Compcare, which is specifically designed for people who visit South Africa for 3 to 12 months. You will receive an information leaflet and an application form together with your confirmation of booking.

**Health**

No vaccinations are required except for travellers going to the north-eastern areas of South Africa, where anti-malaria precautions are recommended. Clients should consult their doctor for recommendations.
A yellow fever certificate is compulsory for those persons who have travelled from, or intend travelling through, countries in the yellow fever belt:


South America: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guyana, Guyana, Panama, Peru, Surinam, Venezuela, Argentina and Paraguay.

Bring medication just in case you suffer from any travel-related illnesses, e.g. stomach upsets, since your body needs to adjust to the change in food and water during your first few days in South Africa.

It is important to keep in mind at all times that HIV and Aids are widespread diseases in South Africa.

Safety

While all safety precautions are followed, you are still working with animals and must be aware at all times and follow the safety guidelines.

What’s included / not included

Included:

• Project placement
• Airport transfer on arrival
• Accommodation at a backpackers (dorm-style room, shared bathroom, breakfast and dinner from Monday to Friday, weekends are self-catering)
• A donation towards the project
• Good Hope Volunteers welcome pack
• Weekly site visits by our coordinator
• An orientation at the beginning of your volunteering
• Electronic certificate (printed copy on request)
• Local support including a 24-hour emergency number
• WiFi

Not included:

• Lunch (Monday to Friday), food (on weekends)
• Local transport
• Any items of a personal nature
Visa

You can volunteer in South Africa on a visitor’s visa for up to 90 days.

Nationals from certain countries (e.g. Brazil, Switzerland, Germany, Australia, France, Netherlands, Spain) will receive their visa when entering South Africa. Other nationals need to apply for a visitor’s visa at a South African Embassy in their home country before travelling.

If you come to South Africa on a visitor’s visa, you can extend once by another 90 days.

If you plan to come for more than 90 days, you need to apply for a visa at a South African Embassy in your home country.

For the latest information contact the South African Embassy or Good Hope Volunteers.